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FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER.

VOL. XLVII.] FAYETTEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA, FEBRUARY 20, 1865. [NO. 2490.

PRINTED EVERY MONDAY,
EDWARD J. HALE & SONS,
EDITORS AND PROPRIETORS.

At $15 00 for six months, paid in advance.
Price for the Semi-Weekly OBSERVER, $20 00 for six months.
Advertisements inserted for $3 per square of 10 lines or less for each publication.

BY THE GOVERNOR: A PROCLAMATION.

TO THE PEOPLE OF NORTH CAROLINA.

Whereas, It is incumbent on me by virtue of the high trusts your partiality has conferred upon me to watch with vigilance over your welfare, guard with fidelity your interests; and warn you of every approaching danger:

Now therefore, I, ZEBULON B. VANCE, Governor of the said State, actuated by a sacred sense of duty and love of country, do deem it necessary to address you in this manner in regard to the dangers and duties of the present time; earnestly praying that it may be conducive to harmony and good will, wherein only is to be found a safe and honorable deliverance from all our troubles. It is known to you all, that in the beginning of these troubles North Carolina was so decidedly opposed to imitating the secession of her Southern sisters, that any attempt to force her to do so by even a majority of her people, prior to the Proclamation of Lincoln in 1861, would most likely have resulted in civil war among our own citizens. It pleased God, however, to prevent this calamity and to calm all the fierce passions of party bitterness, and to cause the most perfect unanimity by means of that Proclamation, which placed before us the dire necessity of either assisting or slaughtering our own brothers and friends. Interest, honor and sympathy combined to decide us upon resistance to what all united in condemning as a cruel and wicked war upon the homes and liberties of the South. With unexampled zeal we entered into the war, rushed forward our bravest sons, and poured out our richest treasures. With immense sacrifices, and varying fortunes, we continued the struggle, still with great unanimity for years. About the end of the third year, however, a portion of our people in common with many others throughout the South, seeing how our best citizens were falling, and how our fairest lands were desolated, began to urge that peace should be sought for by negotiations as well as by the sword. They argued that our Confederate authorities, moved by pride of opinion and embittered by the length and fierceness of the conflict, had not made a sufficient trial of statesmanship as a means of stopping the war; that no doubt if properly approached, either by commissioners appointed by our common government, or by the States separately—supposing diplomatic reasons would prevent the enemy from treating with the former—that our enemy would grant us better terms than we had supposed, and promising that if a fair and honest effort at negotiations should be spurned by the enemy or rejected, then all classes and conditions of men in the South would unite in an earnest prosecution of the war. This was the first serious approach to a division among our people. Sympathizing with the reasonableness of this demand, though not with all the reasons given for believing in its efficiency, and being as sincerely desirous as it was possible for man to be, to stop the war on honorable terms, I, as, your Governor, addressed President Davis in December 1863, and urged this course upon him. In answer thereto he assured me that three separate and distinct efforts had been made to treat with the enemy, without obtaining even a hearing and that he did not see how a fourth one could be initiated without humiliation to ourselves and injury to our cause.

Trusting that Providence would yet open the way, the matter rested here for another year. Many however, of our people, who advocated peace upon such vague and ill defined terms as to cause doubts of their good faith and loyalty, continued sedulously to disseminate the opinion, that our own government alone was to blame for the continuance of the war, going so far in some instances as to threaten revolutionary measures for wresting the treaty making power from its hands, and negotiating with the enemy ourselves, alleging that we could certainly get such terms if the States would act in their sovereign capacity, as would secure our property and slaves, by reconstruction. Since the beginning of the present year, however, two individuals from the North having visited Richmond on a peace mission, by the authority of President Lincoln, and having as our President supposed opened the way for another effort at negotiations, it was promptly made. He immediately sent a delegation through the lines for that purpose, consisting of Vice President Stephens, Judge Campbell late of the Supreme Court of the United States, and the Hon. R. M. T. Hunter, Confederate States Senator, from the State of Virginia, men all eminent for their abilities, public services, and the long continued confidence and respect of their countrymen. The first two are well known to have opposed the beginning of this war, and to sympathize with the general desire for negotiations. They were met at Fortress Monroe by President Lincoln, and Mr. Seward, his Secretary of State, who without allowing them to leave the boat on which they arrived, told them what appears in the following official report:

RICHMOND, Feb. 5, 1865.

To the President of the Confederate States: SIR:—Under your letter of appointment of Commissioners of the 28th, we proceeded to seek an informal conference with Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States upon the subject mentioned in your letter. The conference was granted and took place on the 3 1 inst., on board a steamer anchored in Hampton Roads, where we met President Lincoln and Hon. Mr. Seward, Secretary of State for the United States. It continued for several hours and was both full and explicit. We learned from them that the message of President Lincoln to the Congress of the United States in December last explains clearly and distinctly his sentiment as to the terms, conditions and mode of proceeding by which peace could be secured to the people, and we were not informed that they would be modified or altered to attain that end. We understood from him that no terms or propositions of any treaty or agreement looking to an ultimate settlement would be entertained or made by him with the authorities of the Confederate States, because that would be a recognition of their existence as a separate power, which under no circumstances would be done, and for like reasons that no such terms would be entertained by him from States separately, that no extended truce or armistice as at present advised would be granted or allowed without a satisfactory assurance in advance of the complete restoration of the authority of the Constitution and laws of the United States over all places within the States of the Confederacy, that whatever circumstances may follow from the re-establishment of that authority must be accepted out and out. Individuals, subject to pains and penalties under the laws of the United States, might rely upon a very liberal use of the power confided to him, to remit these pains and penalties, if peace be restored during such conference.

The proposed amendments to the Constitution adopted by Congress on the 31st ult., were brought to our notice. These amendments provide that neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except for crime, should exist within the United States or in any place within its jurisdiction, and Congress should have the power to enforce the amendments by appropriate legislation. Of all the correspondence that preceded the conference herein mentioned and leading to the same, you have heretofore been informed.

Very respectfully, your obedient servants,
A. H. STEPHENS,
(Signed,) R. M. T HUNTER,
J. A. CAMPBELL.

Thus you see that neither terms nor conditions were spoken of in the interview, but only subjugation offered us, the mere details of which they proposed to settle. At one blow, all our hopes in the humanity and moderation of our enemies were dashed to the ground. No terms or proposals of a treaty coming either from the Confederate States, or any one of the States, would be entertained, but a complete, absolute and unconditional submission so the Constitution and laws of the U. S., is required as a preliminary step to any, even the slightest cessation of hostilities. Seeing then that we can treat with the enemy, neither by the authorities of the Confederate States, nor by separate State action, what will be the result if we submit, as we are required to do? This we can partly judge by examining that constitution and those laws, to which we are required to yield obedience. That Constitution is not the one we left. In addition to the changes it has undergone by corrupt and violent interpretation by Black Republican judges, its wording has been so changed as to decree immediately and forever, the abolition of slavery. The "laws" to whose tender mercies we are referred, provide most minutely and particularly for the punishment of death by the halter, of every man, soldier, sailor or marine, civilians and others, who have been engaged in what they term rebellion. Not ceasing to punish with the death of the offender, the "laws" of the United States also provide that all his property, real and personal, shall be confiscated. The only mitigation of the rigor threatened by these laws, is contained in Mr. Lincoln's proclamation accompanying his annual message in December 1863, in which he proposes to hang only those above the rank of Colonel in the army and Lieutenant in the navy, and all civil and diplomatic officers or agents of the Confederate Government, and various other classes therein specified; coupled with a vague intimation to our commissioners in their recent interview, that whilst we must prepare to accept all the pains and penalties of the laws, we might rely on a liberal use of the pardoning power, vested in him. He also informs us that the terms set forth in his recent message of December last, wherein he re-endorses the above mentioned proclamation, will be rigidly adhered to.

Now then, we can sum up, in some sort, the consequences of our submission. Four million slaves, two hundred thousand of whom have been in arms against us, turned loose at once in our midst, our lands confiscated, and sold out to pay the cost of our subjugation or parcelled among negro soldiers as the reward of the slaughter of their masters; our women, children and old men reduced to beggary, and driven from their once happy homes, our mutilated and diseased soldiers, starving in rags from door to door, spurned by even pensioned negro soldiers, whilst the gallows grows weary under the burden of our wisest statesmen and bravest defenders; to say nothing of universal financial ruin and the intolerable oppression of a rapacious and vindictive foe, in the hour of conquest! Great God! Is there a man in all this honorable, high-spirited and noble commonwealth, so steeped in every conceivable meanness, so blackened with all the guilt of treason, or so damned with all the leprosy of cowardice, as to say, yes, we will submit to all this! and whilst there yet remains a half million men amongst us able to resist! And who says the enemy will give us anything better? Not Mr Lincoln; and do the weak and the vacillating among us, know better than he does, what he will do for us?

Having made therefore a fair and honest effort to obtain peace by negotiation, and knowing now precisely, from the lips of the President of the United States, what we are to expect, what are we to do next? There is only one thing left for us to do. We must fight, my countrymen, to the last extremity, or submit voluntarily to our own degradation. Let no man mistake the issue now. The line of distinction will be drawn plainly between those who are for their country, and those who are against their country. There is no half-way house upon the road. The purifying fire is even now burning throughout the land, and its consuming flames must separate the dross from the true metal. Degradation, ruin and dishonor on the one hand—liberty, independence and honor, if our souls be strong, on the other. Is it not worth another honest and manly effort? Aye, another, and another, and another, and a thousand efforts, of our whole people. As North Carolinians, descendants of revolutionary heroes, and fathers and brothers of the noblest dead and living soldiers that ever drew a blade for human freedom, we cannot tolerate the thought of such base and infamous submission.

Should we wilfully throw down an organized government, disband our still powerful armies, and invite all these fearful consequences upon our country, we would live to have our children curse our gray hairs for fastening our dishonor upon them.

I trust and believe that there will be little difference of opinion in North Carolina as to the propriety of continued resistance. The great argument which will be brought forward to shake your honor and intended to incite you to despair will be that successful resistance is no longer possible. Some will tell you that we are already subdued; that the enemy outnumbers us; that our fighting men are all dead; that we have no more powder; that we cannot make any more; that our railroads are destroyed; that we cannot transport supplies; that our people cannot be fed; that our armies cannot be supported; that we must submit now. This, my countrymen, is false and as frequently proceeds from a craven or a traitorous, as from an honest but mistaken spirit. Great as our calamities have been, straitened as we are for all supplies both of men and material, I tell you, in all candor, that when I survey our condition by the light of human history, I see no danger which threatens to be fatal to our cause, except this depression of spirit among the people and the still more fearful risk of internal dissection. So long as we remain one and *determined*, it is not in the power of our enemies to subdue us. "But except these abide in the ship, ye cannot be saved." All things may be supplied if we are but possessed of that bold and manly spirit of resistance to tyranny, of which liberty and independence are born. That alone can fill the widow's barrel and still the orphan's cry; can cast cannons and build ships of war; can raise up armed men from the dust of the dragon's teeth; can wrest tangible realities from the very jaws of impossibility. Without it, numbers but add to the ignominy of certain defeat, even as the Persian millions were whipped and shamed by the three hundred in the mountain pass. Are our men all slain? Over four hundred thousand names yet stand upon the muster rolls of the Confederacy, to say nothing of the many thousands who shirk. Where are they? Thousands upon thousands, absent without leave, are lurking in the woods and swamps of the South. Are our provisions all gone? Hundreds of thousands of bushels of grain now rot at the various depots of the South for want of transportation; and this transportation cannot be protected because these absent soldiers are not at the post of duty. Oh! my countrymen! if you would but rise to entreat, to shame, to drive them back to their country's standard. Has our territory been overrun? It has, but how much of it has been held? The enemy marched triumphantly through the heart of our sister Georgia, and is *she* conquered? Except for the garrison at Savannah and the ashes of desolation on their track through the interior, Georgia has neither enemy nor the sign of enemy on her soil. So of most portions of the South which space does not permit me to enumerate. For four years, their countless legions have gnawed at the vitals of Virginia, yet to-day they claim not even all of her territory which is swept by their cannon. The cities they garrison, the land their armies actually stand upon, and the waters ridden by their fleets, are all that they really hold, or ever can hold except by our ignoble consent.

Let the balance of our cities go; Mobile, Charleston, Wilmington, Richmond, all, and if we are determined to be free our subjugation is quite as distant as ever. For thank God, the Confederacy does not consist in brick and mortar, or particular spots of ground, however valuable they may be in a military point of view. Our nationality consists in our *people*. Liberty dwells in the heart of her votaries, and the ragged, barefooted soldier, standing in the depths of the forest, or in the shadow of the mountain, can offer her sacrifices, which will be as sweet and as acceptable as those proffered in gorgeous temples in the midst of magnificent cities. So if our country and its cause, like to the kindom of God, be enthroned in our hearts, then, indeed am I persuaded, that neither principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor life nor death, nor any other creature shall be able to separate us from that independence and honor for which our people have suffered and our sons have died.

Therefore, my countrymen, having warned you of this danger which is upon us, I now appeal to you by everything held sacred among men, to bear yourselves as becomes your high lineage and future hopes: I implore you to lay down all party bitterness, and to be reconciled to your neighbor for the sake of your country; to use every possible exertion to restore absentees to the army; to divide of your abundance freely with the poor and the suffering; to strengthen the arms of your rulers, and to sustain your soldiers and their Generals; and to give cheerfully your aid, physical, mental, and moral, in whatever sphere you may be, to prevent the degradation of your country, and the ruin of its people.

For the purpose of determining the best means of accomplishing this, as well as for giving expression to your opinions, I earnestly recommend that you assemble in primary meetings in every county in the State, and let the whole world, and especially our enemies, see how a free people can meet a proposition for their absolute submission to the will of their conquerors.

Given under my hand and the great Seal of the State, in our City of Raleigh, on the 14th day of February, A. D., 1865.

{L. S.}

Z. B. VANCE.

By the Governor:
A. M. McPHEETERS, Private Secretary.

MARRIED,

By James A. Rozier, Esq., on Tuesday, the 5th Feb'y, 1865, Mr. JAMES T. PREVATT to Mrs ANN B. CARLILE, eldest daughter of A. J. Currie, dec'd, all of Robeson county, N. C.

Blanks for sale at this Office.

OBSERVER.

FAYETTEVILLE.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1865.

THE ARMY FILLING UP.—We are rejoiced to hear from one of our Armies, that without waiting for the Proclamation just issued by Gen. Lee, the absentees were returning voluntarily to their ranks. They had heard of Lincoln's imperious demand for "unconditional submission," and felt as all true men must feel, that it is utterly inadmissible, and that it is their duty and the duty of all to resist it. The occasion justifies this new effort of Gen. Lee to persuade the erring soldiers back to their posts. It appeals trumpet-tongued to the soldiers themselves. Instead of skulking in the woods like runaway negroes; instead of living upon their wives and children, taking from them by night the pittance it may be that they have made by hard but honest labor; instead of robbing other women and children of their bread and meat; instead of dastardly waylaying and murdering their neighbors and perhaps old friends for the performance of their simple duty; instead of all this, the result of the one false step of desertion, let them act like men, face the danger which can be met by an honest and patriot heart in the light of day; go back to the camp of their comrades, and wipe out the disgrace which will otherwise rest upon their own names and those of their posterity. It is not only duty but interest that appeals to them. They will not escape Lincoln's confiscations if they allow him the power to confiscate. On the contrary, degraded as the yankee is, he yet shows that he feels the greatest respect for the man that stands by his country and the greatest contempt for the dastard who skulks. This is a feeling of human nature, of which even yankees are not divested.

While on this subject, let a soldier in the Virginia army say a word to the people at home as to one of their duties. The following extract from a letter from one of Gen. Lee's veterans has been handed to us with permission to publish it:

"Let me say, sister, that the despondency and gloom of the people at home, as exhibited in their letters to the army, &c., are having a very depressing influence on the soldiers in the field. The army is dispirited because their friends at home are dispirited. They are gloomy because others are gloomy. The enemy is triumphant because the South is gloomy. This is the best reason why the North should be exultant; it is also a good reason why the army should be despondent. After the army has fought hard and gloriously for three years, the people at home are about to *vote* away rights which the beastly and haughty yankees have not been able to extort by force of arms. The people can submit if they see proper; they can never be conquered. Let the people at home stand out firmly: we in the army don't ask them to expose themselves to the deadly bullet; we only ask them not to render our exposure and efforts vain by their voices. They ought surely to be willing to do this. They are suffering nothing to what the army is suffering."

CAMP 5TH N. C. CAV., NEAR HICKSFORD, VA., Jan'y 29, 1865.

Editors of Observer: I enclose you the original manuscript of a letter written by one of my company, and who, previous to the arrival of the letter, had deserted to the enemy. I desire that the letter may be published for the information of our people generally, that they may see under what influences the soldier who deserts forsakes his country's cause, and may properly appreciate the moral grandeur of that heroic spirit which makes the faithful of our army remain true to their duty. Whatever of despondency prevails in this army the people at home are mainly responsible for. The Administration may make some bad appointments—may commit some serious blunders—but the moment that our people as one man determine that they *cannot* and *will not* be conquered, that moment the Confederacy establishes its independence; that moment our army becomes invincible. It is only a war of will at last. If the people of the South are willing to have yankee masters, under the name of "Re-union," the thing is very simple—it is very easy to stop the contest, and the sooner the better; if the people of the South are unwilling to be slaves, they have only to will it and the thing is done. Let the people take heart: let them only *believe* in the success of our army. We do not ask them to fight: let not the people at home *vote* away and cowardly *give* away what the army has for four years of privations and bloodshed fought for, and which it has almost in its hand. Let the friends of the soldier hold back till the army plucks the fruits of its long, arduous and bloody labors.

Very respectfully,
T. W. HARRIS.

Accompanying the above is the original letter from Chatham county, six pages in length. We do not think proper to print it, for it is the outpouring of a wife to her husband; and however full of evil it is, it is as such in some degree sacred. We may say, however, that it is an appeal to the husband *not to "go North,"* not to "take the oath," as he seems to have expressed to her an intention to do, but to come home and "live in the bushes;" and this injunction to "come home" is repeated *eighteen times* in the course of the six pages, and very artfully, considering that the writer is an illiterate woman, mingled with expressions of endearment, references to the children, the advice and entreaties of his father and other persons, plans for making him "a den," arrangements for his visiting her at night when the children are asleep, so that even they should not know that their father was at home, proposals to hire a hand to make a crop, &c. &c. She tells him that his brother James has runaway and is at home. She says, "Lizar stayed with me the other night and she is going to write for him to come back"—that is, we suppose, Lizar is going to persuade *her* husband to desert. She was going to enclose in her letter $10 for her husband "to come home on;" tells him that his father advises him to come and promises to feed him and her as long as he has anything to eat; and that while in the bushes he "will not be hunted, for there is no one to hunt."

Such are the influences brought to bear upon our soldiers. Wives, fathers, sisters and brothers, unite in appealing to a man to disgrace himself and them by a base and cowardly desertion of his country. In this particular instance the wretched wife is well rewarded—instead of coming to her, he has gone to the yankees, and she is not likely ever to see him again—we trust she never will, for of all men, the Confederacy never can desire again the presence of a deserter. She and her father and friends had no doubt filled his mind with disloyal ideas before he went to the army and since. Behold the natural result. They taught him to be disloyal to his country, and had no right to expect that he would be true to them or to any one.

A TIMELY PROCLAMATION.—This morning's mail, (three hours behind time,) brought us one of those stirring appeals to the patriotism and honor and interest of his countrymen which flow so naturally from the pen of our true hearted Governor, and which his own career has shown to be no unmeaning words. We hasten to publish it.

Delaware has rejected the constitutional amendment abolishing slavery.

CONFISCATION OF REBEL LANDS.—It is proper that we should inform our readers, and that they should bear constantly in mind, that the yankees have actually commenced the operation of granting away the lands of the people of the Confederate States which have fallen into their possession, without the slightest reference to the title of the real owners, and making no distinction between those who have been true and those who have been faithless to the Confederate cause. By an order issued by Gen. Sherman, dated at Savannah, Jan'y 16th, 1865, that officer takes from the rightful owners, and grants to others who have not a shadow of legal title, all the islands on the coast from Charleston South, and all the abandoned rice fields along the river for 30 miles from the sea, and the country bordering on the St. John's river, Florida. It is true that legally Sherman has no more right than we have, nor has his President, or Congress, or Courts, to dispossess the proper owners of this land and to give it to others; but he exercises such a *power*, by means of his army; and we may all clearly understand that if we submit to subjugation that power will never be overcome, the proper owners will never be reinstated in the possession of their lands, for the President and the Congress and the Courts are all predetermined that our lands shall be confiscated—they have given us abundant warning of that. The whole people of the South may expect banishment from their homes,—to be turned out to starve,—whilst their property is granted away to the yankees and foreigners who have combined to wrest it from us. This work has been practically carried on for a year or two at Hilton Head, Beaufort, Fernandina, St. Augustine, and Jacksonville, and is now in process of execution at Savannah. We may expect that it will be speedily adopted on the coast of North Carolina, from the yankee head quarters at the mouth of the Cape Fear. The South has no alternative but to fight down this usurpation. It can be done. Her energies and resources, properly applied, will insure success. The darkest hour is just before dawn. Look at the parallel drawn by one of our contemporaries between the insolent demands of Lincoln and those of the Genoese and Venetians several centuries ago, which we copy in another column. Nothing could be more applicable to our present condition; and it should inspire hope and confidence that what has been will be again—the pride of the supposed conqueror shall have a fall.

NORTHERN FEELING.—The paragraphs which we copy from the New York and Philadelphia papers show that there was "a feeling of bitter disappointment" at the failure of the peace negotiation, and that "there is a general flagging of effort in every operation for reinforcing" the yankee army. "Nobody can deny the fact," says that rampant war paper, the New York Times.

In addition to the extracts from the Northern papers, in another column, we see that the Herald was endeavoring to allay the discontent by telling the [illegible] no means concluded." The Herald must have known this to be false, but it might serve to allay for the time the dissatisfaction at the imperious demand of Lincoln, which made peace impossible.

While such is the case North, we are also disappointed, but out of that disappointment our safety will arise, for determination is strengthened, and we trust unity vastly promoted. If not quite so closely united as we were four years ago, it is evident that we are far more so than a year ago, or four months or four weeks ago.

HARD RUN.—The Charleston Mercury devotes a column of editorial to a lampoon upon President Davis founded upon a letter of the Washington correspondent of the New York Herald, pretending to give an account of what passed between Blair and President Davis during the visit of the former to Richmond. This correspondent evidently knew no more of the conversation which he details than we do, and has made up a most ridiculous story, and yet the Mercury receives it all as genuine, and makes seven points against the President out of it, viz: that he invited Blair to return; that he made arrangements for Blair's return; that he told Blair confidentially of the dangers that existed to the Confederacy; that he told Blair of his own trials; that he told Blair that Congress was "watching for every opportunity to pounce upon him (Davis) and close his career as the chief of the Confederacy;" that he told Blair that he was "afraid" to reconstruct the government; "afraid" of the spirit of the people; "afraid" of their patriotic courage and devotion,—all this fear being, not for his country, but for himself. And all such stuff as this the Charleston Mercury receives and retails as genuine, emphasizing it with italics and exclamation points, winding up with the remark, that happen what may, "Davis will take especial care of the interests of Davis." This is a conclusion to which no one can arrive as to the Mercury itself if it goes on quoting the New York Herald against President Davis, doing its utmost to damage the cause of the Confederacy by endeavoring to destroy the confidence of the people and the army in the President of the Confederacy. And all, apparently, for the reason that some South Carolinian was not made President instead of Davis.

Congress.—RICHMOND, Feb. 13.—To-day, in the Senate, the bill for raising 200,000 negro troops was reported back with amendments. In the House, the appropriation bill was perfected and passed. The tax bill was referred to a special committee.

RICHMOND, Feb. 14.—The Senate to-day adopted the report of the Conference Committee on the bill to increase the efficiency of the cavalry, as to amendments of which the two Houses had disagreed. The House also adopted the report, passed a bill for the organization of field artillery, and rejected a bill to punish frauds against the Government. Mr. Barksdale from the select committee to which on Friday last was referred his bill for the enlistment of negro troops reported said bill with a recommendation that it pass. The bill was made the special order for Thursday. Mr. Miles from same committee presented a minority report.

Yankee Items.—The Memphis Bulletin reports a large body of rebels, under Gen. Rollins, endeavoring to cross from Arkansas into Tennessee.

Eighty-seven rebel cavalrymen, charged with being guerrillas, passed through Boston to Fort Warren on the 7th, *handcuffed in couples.*

Returned to Duty.—A correspondent of the Columbia Carolinian, writing from Asheville, N. C., relates an uncommon occurrence as follows:

"A certain Captain of Kirk's tory command was a Lieutenant in one of the S. C. Regiments in 1862, but being cashiered, raised a company and joined the enemy. He came in a few days ago with one hundred men, reported to Col. Palmer for duty, and is now said to be doing good service, slaying bushwhackers right and left."

From Below.—We learn, says the Wilmington Journal of the 13th, that active skirmishing was going on all day Saturday, between our forces at Sugar Loaf and those of the enemy below. Towards night they advanced in force, driving in our skirmishers, and making three attacks upon our main line, all of which were handsomely repulsed, with considerable, we might say heavy, loss to the enemy. Our casualties were about 20. Finally the lines were resumed pretty nearly as before, and all remained quiet yesterday, with the exception of some shelling by the enemy's fleet.

On Saturday one of the monitors in the river threw some of her fifteen inch shells at Fort Anderson, with the effect of killing one and wounding another of our men.

The following persons, wounded in the above fight, were received at General Hospital No. 4 on Sunday:

James Newman, Co. E, 66th N. C. T., leg amputated—Factolus, N. C. D. F. Jenkins, Co. E, 42d N. C. T., contusion back, severe—Smith Grove, N. C. W. J. Williams, Co. E, 27th Ga. Regt., fractured thigh—Red Oak, Ga.

The South Carolina Situation.—The appointment of General Hampton to the command of two such divisions as these of Generals Butler and Young is an earnest of success. He is once more at the head of the men he has so often led to victory on Virginia fields—men on whom both the country and himself can depend—and we may, therefore, look for a repetition here of the gallantry which has been bulletined from every battle in which they have had a place. The arrival of Beauregard, the thought that Hampton is in the saddle, the co-operation of Gen. Johnston, who, although for the present "behind the scenes," does not withhold his skill and experience, whenever demanded, together with a score of other facts of an encouraging character, which should not be published, are events that may well give our people great joy.

Columbia South Carolinian, 12th.

An official despatch has been received at the War Department from Gen'l Beauregard, dated on Saturday, which states that the enemy had made his appearance in considerable force on the South Edisto. The dispatch refers to movements and dispositions of our troops which cannot be made public. We may expect at any hour news of a great battle. It is evident from Gen'l Beauregard's despatch that Sherman has his force well across the railroad, and is moving upon the upper branches of the Edisto with the design of executing a flank movement upon Branchville, while at the same time he threatens Columbia.—*Richmond Examiner, 13th.*

It was said yesterday that Charleston had been evacuated by our troops. This report, we have reason to believe, is premature, though the exigency of the situation in South Carolina may, at some future time, demand its evacuation, is among the possibilities.

A report, believed to be authentic, reached here Saturday night that the enemy's infantry had succeeded in crossing the Edisto river above Branchville, and had struck the Columbia branch railroad eight miles south of Orangeburg—a point twenty miles above Branchville. If this be true, our troops have already abandoned Branchville and fallen back to Columbia, or, at least, behind the Santee river. The Santee will form a very strong and easily defended line, having a swampy margin and its passage being difficult. Columbia is situated on the right bank of this river, about 120 miles from its mouth. From Columbia the Santee flows in a southeast direction, and empties into the Atlantic some fifty odd miles north of Charleston.—*Dispatch 15th.*

The Examiner is probably right in the expectation of a great battle, which will probably take place very near Columbia very soon.

[illegible] sold respectively for $8,050 and $6,150.—*Raleigh Confederate, 15th.*

NOTICE.

STRAYED from the subscriber about the middle of November, one RED COW, with a white spot in her face, mark: the top of the left ear cut off and an under bit in each; also two calves, one the color of the cow and the other dark brindle; mark: a poplar leaf in each ear. The cow was bought of Catharine Journegan, near the Grassy Islands, in Richmond county, and I expect she will try to get back. Any one taking them up will be liberally rewarded, or any information concerning them thankfully received.

MARTHA McLEAN.

Montrose, Feb'y 13. 10*2tpd

Headquarters Reserve, N. C.,

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Raleigh, Feb'y 13, 1865.

GENERAL ORDER No. 4.

I. MAJOR C. S. STRINGFELLOW, Assistant Adjutant General, U. S. P. A., will relieve Capt. John W. Hinsdale, Ass't Adj't General of Reserves N. C., and the latter officer will proceed to join the 3d Regiment Reserves of N. C., as its Colonel, he having been duly elected to that office on the 31 Jan'y 1865.

The Lieutenant General Commanding, in taking leave of Col. Hinsdale, tenders his warm congratulations on his promotion and earnestly hopes that the intelligence, zeal and gallantry, which has characterized his service as a Staff Officer may be matured by experience into greater usefulness in his new and more extended sphere.

(Signed.) TH. H. HOLMES,
Lieut. Gen. Commanding.

Official:
CHAS. S STRINGFELLOW,
Major and A. A. General. 10-3t

10,000 Pieces New Music,

JUST received, which will be sent to any address on receipt of our Catalogue prices.

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BRANSOM & FARRAR,
Raleigh, N. C.
Sept. 6 tf

State of North Carolina,

ROBESON COUNTY.—In Equity.

John McPhaul vs William McPhaul, Calvin McPhaul, Neill McPhaul, Milton McPhaul, James McPhaul Catharine McPhaul and Mallov McPhaul.

Petition for Sale of Land for Partition.

IT appearing to my satisfaction that William McPhaul and Calvin McPhaul reside beyond the limits of the State of North Carolina; they are hereby notified to be and appear before the Judge of the Court of Equity for the County of Robeson, at the Court House in Lumberton, on the fourth Monday in March next, then and there to plead, answer or demur to the petition against them filed, or the same will be taken pro confesso, and a decree entered accordingly.

Witness, N. A. McLean, Clerk of our said Court of Equity for Robeson County, at office in Lumberton the 26th January 1865.

N. A. McLEAN, C. & M. E.

Pr. adv. $5.

State of North Carolina,

MONTGOMERY COUNTY.—In Equity.

Calvin J. Cochran and others, vs J. B. and G. W. Cochran and others.

Petition for the sale of Land.

It appearing to my satisfaction that J. B. Cochran, G. W. Cochran and the heirs of P. J. Cochran, dec'd, and the heirs of Terry Monroe, dec'd, wife of Archy Monroe, reside beyond the limits of this State. It is therefore ordered that publication be made for six weeks in the Fayetteville Observer, notifying said defendants of the filing of this Petition, and that they be and appear at the next term of the Court of Equity to be held for the County of Montgomery, at the Court House in Troy, on the last Monday in February next, then and there to answer this Petition, otherwise the same will be taken pro confesso and heard ex parte as to them.

Witness, Edm'd J. Gaines, Clerk and Master in Equity for said county, at office in Troy.

2-6w E. J. GAINES, C. M. E.

WHY EXCHANGES OF PRISONERS WERE STOPPED.—Gen. Butler in his late speech at Lowell says that Gen. Grant is responsible for stopping the exchange of prisoners. He and Col. Ould arranged a cartel in March last, but Grant's express orders prevented the exchange.

Executive Department, N. C.
ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE H. G.
Raleigh, February 9, 1865

GENERAL ORDERS, No. 2

1 The following acts and parts of acts of the General Assembly of North Carolina are published for the information of all concerned:

AN ACT IN RELATION TO THE MILITIA AND A GUARD FOR HOME DEFENCE, RATIFIED THE 7th DAY OF JULY, 1863.

* * * * * * * *

Sec. 2d. Be it further enacted, That it shall be the duty of the Governor to cause to be enrolled as a Guard for Home Defence, all white male persons not already enrolled in the service of the Confederate States, between the ages of eighteen and fifty years, resident in this State, including foreigners not naturalized, who have been resident in the State for thirty days before such enrollment, excepting persons filling the offices of Governor, Judges of the Supreme and Superior Courts of Law and Equity, the members of the General Assembly, and the officers of the several departments of the Governm't, members of Congress and the Civil and Military officers of the Confederate Government within this State, Ministers of the Gospel of the several denominations in the State charged with the duties of such Ministry, the High Sheriffs and Clerks of the several Courts of record, and the Public Registers in the several Counties, and such other persons as the Governor for special reasons may deem proper subjects of exemption.

Sec. 5th Be it further enacted, That members of the sect ty of Friends, commonly called Quakers, may be exempt from the provisions of this act by paying the sum of one hundred (100) dollars according to an ordinance of the Convention of this State in that behalf, ratified the 12th day of May, 1862. *Provided* that when any such Quaker shall have paid or levied on his property five hundred (500) dollars, under the act of Congress called the Conscription Law aforesaid, he shall not be required to pay any sum of money for his exemption under this act.

AN ACT TO AMEND AN ACT ENTITLED AN ACT TO INCREASE THE EFFICIENCY OF THE HOME GUARD ORGANIZATION—RATIFIED THE 7TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 1865.

Sec. 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That the Governor whenever he deems it expedient may reorganize the Guard for Home Defence by causing two or more companies to be consolidated into one, so as to make not less than sixty four men rank and file to each company; Provided, however, that if there are not sixty home guards in any one county, that such number as may be shall be incorporated into a company: The said companies when so consolidated shall have the privilege of electing their company officers from the rank and file of said companies, and such officers as shall not be elected for service in said company shall be required to perform service as non commissioned officers or privates under the same rules and regulations as other non commissioned officers and privates are required to serve, and whilst so serving their commissions shall be suspended.

Sec. 2. Be it further enacted, That the Governor may in like manner cause two or more battalions or regiments of Home Guards to be consolidated, said battalions when so consolidated to be composed of not less than three companies, and said regiments when so consolidated, of not more than ten Companies. That the rank and file shall elect their field officers, who shall be suspended and they be required to perform duty in the ranks as non commissioned officers and privates.

Sec. 3. Be it further enacted, That in addition of the exemptions mentioned in the second section of an act in relation to the Militia and Guard for Home Defence, ratified 7th July, 1863, there shall be exempt one commissioner to each county appointed under an Act entitled An Act for the relief of wives and families of soldiers in the army, the attorney general, solicitors for the several circuits and counties, county trustees, county surveyors, physicians of five years practice, one editor to a newspaper and necessary compositors and employees to be certified to on oath by the editor, mail carriers, professors in colleges, and teachers who at the passage of this act had, and shall continue to have, twenty scholars, the necessary skilled operatives in factories and foundries, regular public millers, and blacksmiths, and wheel wrights who have established shops, regular public tanners and shoemakers, and one overseer of the poor of each county: *Provided*, all the tradesmen thus exempted shall be skilled in their respective trades and was employed in the same prior to the 1st of January, 1864, and have continued to be so employed since that time, except public millers who shall be exempt whenever they are so engaged unless it shall appear that owners of mills have turned off their millers and gone in themselves to evade the service, then such owners not to be exempt: *Provided*, that the exemptions in this act shall not apply to Home Guard officers commissioned under this act, but shall apply to officers of the Home Guard and Militia who are required under this act to serve in the ranks and who would be entitled to exemption if they did not hold commissions; and, *Provided further*, that no provision of this act shall be construed so as to exempt any person herein mentioned from Home Guard duty in the county in which he resides.

Sec. 4. *Be it further enacted*, That all laws and clauses of laws coming in conflict with this act be and the same are hereby repealed.

Sec. 5. *Be it further enacted*, That this act shall be in force from and after its ratification.

II. In addition to the exemptions granted in the foregoing acts there shall be exempt from duty in the Guard for Home Defence all Rail Road officers and the necessary employees the Commanding officers of each Brigade and Regiment of North Carolina Militia and one Druggist to each Drug Store: *Provided* that there be no druggist in said Drug Store not liable to duty in the Guard for Home Defence.

III Claims for exemption under the foregoing acts and orders must be established by the affidavit of two respectable persons knowing of the facts, which the individual belongs who, if satisfied that the claim is just, will furnish him with a certificate of exemption.

IV. The Commanding officers of each Regiment and Battalion of the Guard for Home Defence will immediately assemble their commands at their respective county seats, and at once proceed to consolidate the companies in accordance with the act of the General Assembly of North Carolina ratified February 7th 1865, and under the following regulations viz: When a regiment or battalion is assembled as above directed, its commanding officer will divide it into two classes, all able bodied officers and men liable to actual service in the field beyond the limits of the county, will constitute the first class, and all officers and men exempt from duty except within the limits of their counties, will constitute the second class.

When the first class does not exceed ninety men or fall below forty five men, it will be organized into one company—when it exceeds ninety men, but does not exceed one hundred and fifty, it will be organized into two companies—when it exceeds one hundred and fifty men, it will be organized into three companies, and elections for a full complement of company officers will be held; when the first class falls below forty-five men, it will be organized into a company, and officers elected as follows: For a company of less than forty five, but more than thirty-five men, a Captain and a first Lieutenant and a second Lieutenant, of a company of twenty or less number of men, one second Lieutenant.

The second class will be organized into companies not to exceed seventy five men each, and elections for a full complement of company officers will be held, when the number of men does not fall below forty five But when it does fall below forty five the same rule will be followed as in the first class.

The election for company officers will be held under the direction of the commanding officer of each Regiment or Battalion, who will, as soon

PUBLIC MEETING IN FAYETTEVILLE.

In pursuance of a previous brief notice, a meeting was held at the Market House in the Town of Fayetteville, on Thursday the 16th inst, to take such action as might be deemed proper under the circumstances of the late rejection by Lincoln of any terms of peace, or even negotiations for peace, except upon the previous unconditional submission of the Confederate States. It was one of the largest and most respectable meetings that has been held here during the war, reminding one of the assemblage on the 16th of April 1861, when Lincoln called upon North Carolina to furnish troops to fight under him against our brethren in feeling and institutions and interest; and the present meeting was animated by a kindred spirit to that—a determination never to submit to the imperious demands of the tyrant and oppressor. Old and young, men, women and children, civilians and soldiers, were there, from the town and county and adjoining counties, to listen to the patriotic and eloquent and brilliant utterances of the speakers, and to applaud the resolutions which pledged anew their devotion to their country and its cause.

The meeting was organized, on motion of Mayor McLean, by the appointment of E. J. Hale as President; John C. Smith and H. L. Myrover as Vice Presidents; and Duncan Shaw and Joseph A. Worth as Secretaries. And its object was stated by the President.

Hon Jesse G. Shepherd moved the appointment by the Chair of a Committee of five gentlemen to propose resolutions for the consideration of the meeting. The Committee consisted of Judge Shepherd, Maj. M. McR. McLauchlin, Col. John McRae, E. J. Lilly, and David Murphy, Esqrs.

Whilst the committee was engaged in the performance of their duty, Gen A. D. McLEAN of Harnett, one of our representatives in the Legislature, was called upon and responded in an earnest and animated speech. He had been confined to a sick room, not well enough to attend the Court of his own county now in session; but the occasion and the call upon him to address this meeting on so momentous a question impelled him to risk all consequences; and he was here to express his indignation at the insulting demand of Lincoln and his readiness to resist, to die, if necessary, in defence of the liberties and honor of his country. His patriotic speech was frequently applauded. When he closed, the Committee returned and through Judge Shepherd reported the following Preamble and Resolutions:—

Whereas, the people of the Confederate States are now engaged in a gigantic struggle with the people of the United States of America for life, liberty, honor and property; and whereas the essential principle for which the people of the Confederate States are contending is the right to govern themselves and to regulate their institutions and domestic affairs; and whereas North Carolina, by the unanimous resolution of her Convention on the 20th day of May 1861, did dissolve all connexion with the government and people of the United States—and by this solemn declaration did pledge life, fortune and sacred honor to the holy cause of freedom; and whereas through four years of desolating and destructive warfare the plighted faith of the State has been kept and men and treasure have been freely given; and whereas through all this carnage and shedding of most precious blood—bringing woe, tribulation and sorrow to the land—the earnest desire of the people has been for peace—permanent and honorable peace—which could be secured alone by the independence and nationality of the Confederate States of America; and whereas the State of North Carolina has uniformly resolved that any peace short of this would be dishonoring to her people and a surrender of the great principle for the maintenance of which she had entered into the struggle; and whereas the President of the United States and the Secretary of State did meet with three citizens of the Confederate States informally sent forward by the President of the same, to confer in reference to the question of peace; and whereas in the said conference the only terms proposed by the President of the United States were those of unconditional submission to the authority and laws of his government, and to such policy, however offensive, as the said government may in future adopt, accompanied by the taunting declaration that the Federal Congress had already provided for such amendments of the Constitution as would entirely abolish the institution of slavery in the States; and whereas President Lincoln did then declare that he would make no treaty with the people of the Confederate States or of any separate State upon other terms than these, and would allow no armistice or temporary recognition; therefore

Resolved, That the terms thus offered to the people of the Confederate States are such as cannot be accepted, and are regarded as conditions which an insolent and malignant conqueror might impose upon a downtrodden and subjugated nation.

Resolved, That with the contemptuous rejection by the Federal Government of the efforts and offers of the Government of the Confederate States to treat for peace upon terms compatible with the honor and dignity of the latter, there is no alternative now left but unmanly and ruinous submission on the one side, or a struggle to the death, if need be, for honor and independence on the other.

Resolved, That with this alternative presented, the citizens who are here assembled do not hesitate to declare their choice, and now in view of greater sacrifices yet to be made, of heavy burdens yet to be borne, they will bear all with patience and steady endurance, to vindicate the high principle involved in this struggle; and feeling that their cause is right, and that the success of that cause is connected with the best hopes and with the highest happiness of themselves and their posterity, they pledge to each other, life, fortune and sacred honor in this holy purpose.

Having read this preamble and resolutions, Judge Shepherd sustained them in a very able speech, of which the following is a brief sketch:

HON. J. G. SHEPHERD'S SPEECH.

Judge SHEPHERD said that he had often addressed the people of Cumberland county before; that he had spoken to them on questions both of national and of State policy—on questions that for a season had excited and absorbed the public mind and had passed away with the occasion which called them up.

The day and the occasion of this large and most respectable gathering of the people has nothing that is transient and fugitive about it. It is a day of stern and solemn realities; of responsibilities which reach far beyond the present moment; of aims and purposes which are not limited to the measure of time itself. Not for ourselves alone do we speak and resolve this day, but for our posterity and for the cause of independence and self-government among all mankind. The question which we are here to discuss, stripped of all unnecessary surroundings, presents to our minds distinctly the issue which no one can evade or even postpone, and it is this: unmanly and ruinous submission on the one side, or a struggle to the death, if need be, for liberty and honor on the other. The people of Cumberland who are present shall not be mocked and insulted by a serious inquiry whether this assembly is divided upon such a point. Cumberland county presents in this struggle for independence a history that is bright and glorious, and while she would detract nothing from the fame of her sisters, she feels that she has freely contributed to the honor of the State and to the success of our common cause.

North Carolina throughout this terrible conflict has never lowered her standard, but from the day of dissolving her connexion with the Federal Government has uniformly resolved that no re-union at any time or on any terms could be admitted, and that any thing short of the absolute independence and nationality of the Confederate States was discredit and ruin to her people. These are not the fitful expressions of some ill considered moment when passion and impulse drive men from the balance of their reason, but they are the deliberate resolutions of the General Assembly, made by members in full view of their responsibility at present and in the future. Mr. Shepherd then reviewed and commented upon the patriotic resolutions of 1862-'3;—upon the proclamation and policy of Gov. Vance in the summer and autumn of 1863; upon the Message of the Governor to the Assembly in May 1864; and to the resolutions then adopted—all insisting upon independence as an indispensable condition of peace with the enemy. He alluded then to the canvass of the State by Governor Vance in 1864; to his thrilling, spirit stirring speeches; to his inflexible adherence to this great principle of nationality and the right of self-government, and lastly to the decided, overwhelming condemnation of any other policy by his triumphant re-election.

With all these facts written in our history, fresh in our minds, the work of the last four years, and all tending in the same direction, how is it that men desire now to blot these pages out, and if it were possible to cast from themselves all remembrance of their former spirit and their own doings? After looking back to the past, to the graves of the gallant dead, to the mourning and woe and affliction in the land, to the losses and privations which once were borne with so much patience—If with all this before us, we talk of submission now to the terms of Mr Lincoln, why did we enter into the war at all? Ah, but there are some who say that our enemy possesses the most ample resources—men, money, ships, open ports and commerce with the world. Grant it; but it was all true when the war began and when we resolved that no terms of settlement would ever be accepted by us short of independence.

While all these things are true in reference to the power of our enemy, we forget how our lot has changed. With no army then, with no munitions of war, we have armed hundreds of thousands for this unequal contest, and while our losses are great and our reverses sad, we have kept back this proud foe who seeks to enslave us, and after four years of warfare such as the world has never known, we are still a free people, manfully struggling for justice, without the help or even the sympathy of the world.

But we are told that we shall be forced to submit because the pressure is too strong to be resisted; that darkness is cast over the pathway of our people and that men grope uncertain how to move. We are conquered now, is the feeling of some; our spirits are unnerved, despondency hangs around our wills and men refuse to stir themselves to duty and to action. Why should these feelings be allowed? How often before has the country felt this depression and yet casting it off has been roused up to the urgent demands of the hour? We remember it all in the dark days of 1862, when Roanoke Island, Newbern, Fort Donelson, Nashville, Memphis and New Orleans passed in so short a time to the hands of the enemy. We remember it in 1863—when Vicksburg and Port Hudson were lost and Gen. Lee driven across the Potomac, leaving his thousands slain at Gettysburg. Still with all of this against us, the campaign of 1864, both in Virginia and the Southwest, was full of glory to our arms and of losses to the enemy such as he had never felt before.

The brave men—the heroes whose history is immortal—having borne the burdens of the war during their enlistment, again pledged their lives to the cause of the country, and then the gloom of our people *at home* passed away as the mists of the morning before the sun.

But our property must be saved, our homes must be kept, is the feeling of some who are ready to submit.

Where is your hope, where is your security, for such favor and indulgence? Has it been so at New Orleans, Norfolk, Fernandina, Jacksonville, Newbern, or even at Savannah? Where are the families driven from these cities, reduced from wealth to poverty, seeking homes in the most humble place of dwelling and rejoicing often to satisfy their hunger with that which is literally their daily bread? Friends and foes, loyal and disloyal, have come into the same condition, and while the Yankee has used the treason he has despised the traitor. If in these cities the faithful and the loyal have been banished, the man who lingers yet behind is bound with fetters which fasten him down in bondage.

With the country conquered, if our people prefer conquest as their choice; with the black population set free, without the fear and the discipline now existing; with the people of the North, with foreign hireling soldiers, quartered among us, occupying our homes given to them for bounty and for pensions; who would be mad enough to talk of holding the estates that now are his? Where are Mr. Lincoln's messages and the confiscation laws of his subservient Congress? Who will hope against all this—against the schemes of Gen. Sherman for negro colonies in South Carolina and Florida—that property, even if it were precious as freedom and honor, could at all be safe? Away then with such delusion, for it must end in bitterness and ruin.

There are others who say that the war has destroyed the country and we must submit. We must have peace and *rest*. There must be no further exactions by our own government, no conscription, no heavy taxes. Who hopes for *rest*, for the end of war, if we submit to subjugation? Where are Mexico and Canada? Where are the grudges borne to France and England? But more than all where is the mad, wild spirit of dominion, of the lust of power, and the blind, ungovernable pride, which success over us would give?

Does the subjugated man *at home* dream of rest and peace? Does he hope he may escape from the perils of Mexico?

Does one who has ever borne the country's flag hope for mercy, if overcome by Mr. Lincoln?

A brave Confederate soldier, after our cause is ingloriously abandoned, sent forward with a detested conqueror at his side or over him, to fight the battles of a country which he hates with all his heart?

But such may be our *rest*, if we prefer submission with its horrors to a struggle even unto death for independence with an honorable and a glorious peace! But subjugation will never be our fate, if we love freedom and will give all things for it. Political self destruction we may commit, but never, never will our cause be lost, if we are true to ourselves. The cause of the Confederacy is right—it is righteous—sacred. It is a contest for freedom in Church and State. It should bring together all our hearts and unite us in our charities and affections, and then, with the blessing of God, we shall triumph, and in that triumph there shall be written for us the brightest and most glowing page of human history.

COL McKAY'S SPEECH.

Col McKay commenced by remarking that he was in Richmond, Virginia, last week, and it would do your hearts good to see the patriots of the "Old Dominion," how they are uniting to aid the glorious army of the Confederate States in establishing our right to self-government. They are willing to *give* King Abraham a sheet on which to write the terms of an honorable settlement, and let him write on that sheet what he pleases, but they are determined to add one word, and that word shall be INDEPENDENCE. I do not mention this because I want you to follow Virginia or any other State; but Virginia is right, and North Carolina has always preferred to be right rather than to be successful. She was the first to raise her voice for freedom's cause in 1776, and on every battle-field from that time to the present her gallant sons have shown themselves the worthy descendants of a noble ancestry. On the plains of immortal Yorktown, yes on the same spot where the white Lilies of France, twined around the Stripes and Stars of a once glorious but now broken and dishonored Union, sent England's proud lion howling back to his lair in the wilderness—the garlands of victory twining around the glittering swords and bristling bayonets of the 1st N C Regiment, were hailed as the first triumph for our Southern cause. The long roll of death has called to arms beyond the grave; thousands of our fathers, brothers, husbands and sons, whose names, though not recorded on the historic page, will yet live in the memory of a grateful people—their voice is calling to you from the grave, not to turn your backs upon them, and make nugatory all that they fought and bled and suffered and died to win. The voices of your mothers, wives and daughters are calling you to come to their rescue and save them from injury, insult and degradation. "Let the grass of the field cover the ruins of our cities, and the savage return from the mountains to rebuild his hut in the home of his fathers," rather than be slaves. Many good but misguided men, believing that Pres't Davis should make efforts to negotiate for peace but that he had refused to do so, were the advocates of separate action, or negotiation by the States themselves. The recent treatment of our Commissioners has settled both questions—he will neither treat with the Confederate States Government nor with the States themselves. President Davis has done everything to restore peace to our distracted country that could be done consistently with his own self respect and a proper regard for the honor and dignity of the country. Early in the history of our struggle he sent Commissioners to Washington, to see if our difficulties could not be settled without the shedding of blood. The history of that mission has become a part of our history; every Message he has sent to Congress proclaims to the world his willingness, yea his anxiety, to make peace on honorable terms. Vice President Stephens tried to confer with the authorities of the United States and see if the war could not be conducted on the principles of civilized warfare; he was treated with contempt and refused even a hearing. And even yet, willing to forget the past, when Mr Blair comes to Richmond with the knowledge and approbation of Abraham Lincoln, holding out to our authorities that if they would make the effort our difficulties could be settled by negotiation, Mr Davis sends Hon A H Stephens, R M T Hunter and Judge Campbell to meet any Commissioners that Lincoln might appoint. They are met by Lincoln and W H Seward, and told that they will hear nothing but unconditional submission to their authority—subjugation and confiscation. Is there any man within the sound of my voice so base and cowardly as to submit to this? What can you make by it? How will they treat you? Let us look at a few illustrious examples and profit by their experience. Hon J M Botts was arrested by our authorities for disloyalty, and after a short confinement was released on his parole of honor to remain at his own home. Very soon the yankee army comes along and takes all his property; he appeals to Lincoln, telling him of his attachment to the Union, and begs that his property may be restored. His application is treated with scorn, and he is stripped of everything. Hon Henry S. Foote, a Senator in the Confederate Congress, standing high in the estimation of his friends, but unwilling to bear the trials necessary to win the inestimable boon of freedom for himself and children, too ambitious to follow the lead of wiser and better men, deserts to the enemy. And what do they do with him? They send him to Fort Warren—and *they serve him right*. A man by the name of Swain, from the Eastern part of North Carolina, who managed to keep out of the army, deserts to the enemy and is arrested. He tells them he has always been a Union man, was opposed to the war and the Confederacy. The Yankees tell him they have no favors for a man who proves himself a traitor to his own country, and will not fight for his home when that home is invaded. They put him in the Yankee army; and *they served him right too*.

The man who hopes to curry favor with the enemy and raise himself in their estimation by deserting his own cause and taking the oath of allegiance to save his property, will find himself mistaken. Then let us fight. Come on and "let us face together and to the front;" let us meet Sherman and drive him back; never let him march in triumph through North Carolina; let us make him stick in the "Tar."

But, my countrymen, it is not our stout hearts and strong arms alone that can win for us the victory. There is a God, without whose knowledge not a sparrow falleth to the ground, and nations cannot rise without His knowledge and consent. On the evening previous to one of the most important battles fought during the American revolution, a spy from the American army returned to the enemy's camp and said to Lord Cornwallis, "our cause is lost: Washington is at prayer." The sun rose upon that battle field, and when it set it set upon a victorious American army.

In the first battle of Manassas, in the very thickest of the fight, stood the Oglethorpe Guards of the 8th Georgia Regiment. Their comrades were falling thick and fast all around them; but when the battle was over and the roll was called, history tells us that not one of them was hurt. On that same day, at that same hour, in the Oglethorpe Church in Georgia, the fathers, mothers and friends that they had left behind them were engaged in prayer. Comment is unnecessary. The same God who heard them, who heard Washington's prayer, and led him with his gallant little host to battle and to victory, is still seated on his throne, watching over the destiny of these Confederate States, ready to hear and answer our prayer, and shall we refuse to invoke His blessing?

Trusting in Him, let us meet the enemies of our country, adopting for our motto the language of the lamented Taylor: "My wounded are behind me, and I will never pass them alive."

At the close of Col. McKay's speech, which, like Judge Shepherd's, was received with unmistakeable signs of approval by the audience, it was announced from the Chair that Wm. B. Wright and R P. Buxton, Esqrs, who had been invited to address the meeting, were attending Harnett Superior Court, on important business; and the following letter from Dr. McCormick, (member of the Legislature,) who had also been invited, was read:—

HARNETT COUNTY, Feb'y 14, 1865.

Gentlemen: In the Observer of the 13th inst. I received your polite invitation, asking the members of the Legislature and others to address the citizens of Cumberland county on Thursday next. I regret that I cannot be present on that occasion; I am prevented on account of previous engagements.

I have ever held it to be the duty of the servants of the people to respond to the wishes of their constituents, whether that be to "advise, enlighten, encourage," or give an account of their public acts, whenever called upon to do so. It would be presumption in me to attempt to "advise" as intelligent a constituency as I have the honor in part to represent, on the affairs of our common country,—a people who have made such large sacrifices both in blood and treasure, and contributed so much of their time and talents to the furtherance of the cause of freedom. I repeat that it would be idle in me to give you any "advice" other than to impress upon you the necessity of maintaining your character as a high-minded, law-loving and law-abiding people, and in the meantime, while you are giving ready obedience to the laws of both the State and Confederate Governments, it is your duty to insist that there should be no abridgement of the liberties which are guaranteed to you in the Constitution; the observance of the one is as essential to good Government as the maintenance of the other.

The reasons given above would equally apply to "enlightening and encouraging" you on the affairs of the country. You are well aware that our country is bleeding at every pore. It is not necessary for me to condition; they are fresh in the memory of us all. It is no time to discuss the untenable doctrine of peaceable secession, or bandy epithets on account of the opinions of statesmen and politicians on abstract questions. We have a higher duty to perform—one in which every lover of his country must feel a deep interest—and that is the "maintenance of our right of self government." Our liberties as a nation and our existence as an independent sovereignty depend upon the issue of the present crisis. From the published report of the Stephens, Hunter and Campbell mission, it is clearly evident that Lincoln has no idea of entering upon negotiations looking to an honorable peace. The terms which he is reported to have offered to our Commissioners are insulting to a high minded people, the acceptance of which would be base submission and abject slavery, to which no North Carolinian could ever voluntarily consent. I did indulge the hope that some terms of peace would be agreed upon, honorable alike to both Governments, and I still entertain the opinion that there is enough of conservatism yet remaining at the North to crush the tyrant in his fiendish design. Whether foreign nations will interfere or not, the future must determine; there is nothing in the past to cause the slightest hope. Then we have still to rely upon our own resources, the blessing of God, the valor of our troops, and the devotion of our people to the cause. And here I venture the assertion that North Carolina, though much abused by designing demagogues and petty tyrants, will be the last to lick the dust or crouch at the feet of the oppressor. She will prove true to every pledge she has ever made; and if at last die she must, she will be found struggling in the cause of right, clinging to Constitutional liberty, and firm in the defence of our common country. This she will do, come weal or come woe.

With high regard, I am, my dear sirs, y'r obd't serv't,
JOHN McCORMICK.

To Messrs McLEAN, MALLETT, and many others.

SPECH OF B. FULLER, Esq

Bartholomew Fuller, Esq., then rose, and made a short, but clear and logical speech. He referred to the different circumstances under which he had heretofore addressed the people of North Carolina, and stated that he had never lost the hope of our final success. The action of North Carolina in severing her connection with the United States had been calm and deliberate, and he expected her to stand by that action in the present crisis. He spoke with peculiar force of the advantages accruing from building up a healthy home sentiment, alleging that if this had not been so much neglected heretofore, the desertions from our armies would not have been so numerous. There were but two questions to decide—to go forward or backward. For many reasons, which he enumerated with much clearness, we could never think of going backward. After reading an extract from the proclamation of Gov. Vance, he closed with an earnest appeal to the meeting not to give up the contest without the priceless boon of independence.

Maj Robert Strange, of the army, who happened to be in town on a visit to his family, was now loudly called for, and, coming forward, delivered one of the most powerful and brilliant speeches that we remember to have heard.

MAJOR STRANGE'S SPEECH

Major Strange said, that it gladdened the heart to hear the expressions of public sentiment manifested here today. It was a fitting response to the insulting proposition recently made to our Commissioners by our haughty and imperious foe. The declarations made here to-day will find an echo in the hearts of our people throughout the State—throughout the Confederate States; will cheer the army in the field, will stimulate to action the people at home. It is proper that this meeting should be held here, for no county has contributed more in treasure and in precious blood than the county of Cumberland; and now that every proposition for an honorable peace has been rejected, it is right that her voice should be heard declaring that, much as she has contributed and suffered, she will give up all rather than quit this struggle without her independence.

The President of the Confederate States, anxious as he has always been to seize every opportunity which presented the slightest prospect of procuring a cessation of hostilities and an honorable peace, was induced but a few weeks ago to send Commissioners to Washington to negotiate terms of settlement. These Commissioners were not even allowed to leave the vessel which conveyed them to Fortress Monroe, but were met by President Lincoln, accompanied by his Secretary of State, and informed that "unconditional submission" was what he demanded; that peace was to be vouchsafed upon no other terms; but that if the people of the States in rebellion would upon bended knee, with bowed necks and crossed hands, cast themselves upon his royal clemency, he would be "liberal" in the selection of the victims to suffer the penalties of the law and expiate the crime of treason. Their property must of course be given up; that had already been provided for by the confiscation laws and the emancipation amendment to the constitution.

Fellow citizens, these are the terms which [illegible] and relentless foe offers to a now free people. Elated by some recent successes, misinterpreting our earnest desire for peace, and counting upon divisions and disaffection amongst us, he proudly and haughtily imagines that our subjugation is already accomplished, and that it but remains for him to fasten the yoke upon our necks and bind the chains about our hands. We are now given distinctly to understand, that the only alternatives are independence on the one hand or unconditional submission on the other. There is no misunderstanding the issue now. The silver veil of reconstruction—the old union with all former rights restored—with which some few have been dazzled and deceived, has been lifted now, and discloses the monster subjugation in its most hideous form. If we could doubt before, we can no longer. It is now distinctly revealed before us, that reconstruction and subjugation are one and the same. Truly the enemy have been kinder to us than is their custom. Will not this reception of our Commissioners,—these insulting terms proposed—rouse up and unite our people every where? Will it not bury all past differences, all personal animosities, every vestige of party rancor and bitterness? Will it not unite the entire people of the Confederate States and inspire them with a renewed spirit of stern resistance and determined purpose never to give up this struggle till independence is secured.

When North Carolina, on the 20th May 1861, separated herself from the U. S. and cast her destinies with the Confederate States, she did so after calm and mature deliberation, fully considering, in all its consequences, the act she was doing. She felt that her interest and her honor demanded such a course, and she adopted it. This was not the act of a party, or of any set of men. It was the spontaneous, united, unanimous action of her whole people. The act was the act of the whole people, the responsibility belongs to all, as the blessings of independence will be shared by all. As her people were a unit then, so let them be now. And let them, with those of all her sister States, move on together to the accomplishment of the great work that lies before them, with that same lofty patriotism that animated their souls during the first years of the war, and all will be well. We cannot go back, carnally as our hearts yearn for peace, rapturously as the tidings of peace would be hailed by our people, giving rest to the weary, war worn soldier, restoring him once again to the joys and happiness of his own home. We cannot accept it upon such terms as our enemies offer us.

"Yes, there is a devilish mercy in these men,
If you'll implore it, that will free your life
But fetter you till death."

If we were assured that after twenty years of war our failure at last was certain, it would be our duty, it would be our highest interest, to fight on, for nothing that could befal us could be worse than the terms which they propose to us. Is all the precious blood which has been poured out in this struggle for independence to be shed in vain? After so many noble souls have offered up their lives for freedom, are we basely to abandon the cause, and by our own act allow the inscription, "traitor!" to be placed on their graves? Are our glorious dead to be thus abandoned and forgotten? Are we to have our own children to reproach us in bitterness of soul, and curse the hour that brought misery and degradation on them and on ourselves?

But why should we despair of the republic? The cause is not lost. Nothing but dissension among ourselves can bring upon us that worst of all temporal evils—subjugation. We have still the means in our power to insure success if vigorously, promptly and earnestly put forth. Our muster rolls now show us to be numerically as strong as the enemy. A restored healthy public sentiment will bring back the absentees to their places in the army. And although there are deserters from the army, the number has been greatly exaggerated. I have reason to know this to be so, as far as a portion of the army is concerned, from which it has been reported that the desertions have been 50 per day, and yes the last return shows an increase since the one preceding of the total effective force present for duty of over 100. The enemy, it is true, have passed over a large portion of our territory, devastating as they have gone, but see how vast an extent is now free from their power. They have cut our railroads, but we have again restored them or opened new communications to meet our necessities. Sherman has moved through Georgia, but Savannah is the only portion of it now occupied by the enemy. I have reason to believe that dispositions have been and are now being made to check the progress of Sherman, and I hope and believe that we will yet bring disaster to his army.

Let us, then, throw off this spirit of despondency which is a wicked rebuke to the mercies of our Creator, and our deliverance will come sooner perhaps than we even now dare to hope for. I have just read the Proclamation of Gov Vance. It is a glorious document, worthy of the Governor of North Carolina, and stirs the heart like the blast of a trumpet. Let our people but respond as they should and we have nothing to fear. He has done his full duty, let us do ours.

These are times of trial, times which demand unfaltering faith, stern resolution, determined action. They are not times for gloom and despondency, but for healthy, vigorous action. Times not for speculation and money making, but for the sacrifice of money, property, and life if need be, to rescue us from that which is far worse than death. If with the men and means at our disposal we fail in this struggle, then will history record of us, this people failed to achieve their independence because they had not the virtue to be free. Our path of duty lies straight before us, as clear as if lighted by a sunbeam. It may be a path of peril, of privation and suffering, but it is the path of safety and of honor, leading most assuredly, if we tread it like men, to a glorious independence. Stop not now to enquire what this or the other man ought to do, but let each one ask honestly of his own conscience what his own duty is, in this the hour of his country's utmost need. Let him perform that duty faithfully, and ere long peace will be ours—a just, an honorable, and a lasting peace.

Capt. Benjamin Robinson was next called out, and spoke at some length of the duty of resistance to the tyranny and despotism of Lincoln, and pledging himself anew to the great cause of independence and separate nationality. (He is out of the field now only because of his wounds received in the glorious battles of last spring in Virginia.)

The question was then put upon the preamble and resolutions and they were unanimously adopted; and the meeting adjourned after near four hours of steady attention and enjoyment.

THE PEACE CONFERENCE

On the 10th inst. President Lincoln communicated to the United States Congress the correspondence before and during the late attempted Peace negotiations. The substance of the mere formal telegrams and the full text of the important correspondence is as follows:—

A pass to F. P. Blair, Dec. 26, 1864, to visit the South and return, but with no authority to speak or act for the Government, and with no knowledge of what he intended to say or do. Next, Blair's return with "a manuscript letter as follows, to-wit:

RICHMOND, Jan. 12, 1865.—F. P. Blair, Esq:—Sir: I have deemed it proper, and probably desirable to you, to give you in this form the substance of the remarks made by me, to be repeated by you to President Lincoln, &c.

I have no disposition to find obstacles in forms, and am willing now, as heretofore, to enter into negotiations for the restoration of peace. I am ready to send a commission whenever I have reason to suppose it will be received, or to receive a commission if the U. S. Government shall choose to send one. Notwithstanding the rejection of our former offers, I would, if you could promise that a commissioner, minister, or other agent would be received, appoint one immediately, and renew the effort to enter into a conference, with a view to secure peace to the two countries.

Yours, &c., JEFFERSON DAVIS.

"Afterwards, and with a view that it should be shown to Mr. Davis, I wrote and delivered to Mr. Blair, a letter as follows, to-wit:

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18.—F. P. Blair, Esq:—Sir: You having shown me Mr. Davis's letter to you of the 12th instant, you may say to him that I have constantly been, am now, and shall, continue ready to receive any agent whom he or any other influential person now resisting the national authority may informally send me, with the view of securing peace to the people of our common country. Yours, &c., A. LINCOLN.

"Afterwards Mr. Blair dictated for and authorized me to make an entry on the back of my retained copy of the letter last above recited, which entry is as follows:

"JANUARY 28, 1865.—To-day Mr. Blair tells me that on the 21st instant he delivered to Mr. Davis the original of which the within is a copy, and left it with him; that at the time of delivering it Mr. Davis read it over twice in Mr Blair's presence, at the close of which he (Mr. Blair) remarked that the part about our common country related to the part of Mr. Davis's letter about the two countries, to which Mr. Davis replied that he so understood it. A. LINCOLN."

announcing the arrival of the Confederate Commissioners in front of the Yankee lines, and their desire to pass; and a reply that a messenger would be sent to see them at once. This messenger was Maj. Thos. T. Eckert, into whose hand "I prepared and put (says Mr. Lincoln) the following instructions and message:

"EXECUTIVE MANSION, WASHINGTON, Jan. 30, 1865.—Maj T T Eckert:—Sir: You will proceed with the documents placed in your hands, and on reaching Gen Ord will deliver him the letter addressed to him by the Secretary of War. Then, by Gen. Ord's assistance, procure an interview with Messrs Stephens, Hunter and Campbell, or any of them, deliver to him or them the paper on which your own letter is written. Note on the copy which you retain the time of its delivery and to whom delivered. Receive their answer in writing, waiting a reasonable time for it, and which, if it contains their decision to come through without further condition, will be your warrant to ask Gen. Ord to pass them through, as directed in the letter of the Secretary of War to him. If by their answer they decline to come, or propose other terms, do not have them passed through. And this being your whole duty, return and report to me. Yours, truly, A. LINCOLN.

Messrs. Alexander H Stephens, J A. Campbell and R M T. Hunter.—Gentlemen: I am instructed by the President of the United States to place this paper in your hands, with the information that if you pass through the United States military lines it will be understood that you do so for the purpose of an informal conference on the basis of that letter, a copy of which is on the reverse side of this sheet, and that if you choose to pass on such understanding, and so notify me in writing, I will procure the Commanding General to pass you through the lines and to Fortress Monroe, under such military precautions as he may deem prudent, and at which place you will be met in due time by some person or persons for the purpose of such informal conference, and further that you shall have protection, safe conduct and safe return in all events.

THOMAS T ECKERT,
Major and A. D. C.

CITY POINT, VIRGINIA, February 1, 1865."

"Afterwards, but before Major Eckert had departed, the following dispatch was received from Gen. Grant:

JANUARY 31, 1865.

His Excellency Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States:—The following communication was received here last evening:

PETERSBURG, VIRGINIA, January 30, 1865.—Lieut Gen. U S Grant, commanding the Armies of the U. S.:—Sir: We desire to pass your lines under safe conduct, and to proceed to Washington to hold conference with President Lincoln upon the subject of the existing war, and with a view of ascertaining upon what terms it may be terminated in pursuance of the course indicated by him in his letter to Mr Blair of January 18, 1865, of which we presume you have a copy, and if not, we wish to see you in person, if convenient, and to confer with you on the subject. Very respectfully yours,

ALEXANDER H STEVENS,
J A CAMPBELL,
R M T HUNTER.

I have sent directions to receive these gentlemen, and expect to have them at my quarters this evening awaiting your instructions. U. S. GRANT.
Lieut. Gen'l, Com'd'g Armies of the U. S."

In reply, Mr. Lincoln telegraphed Grant to detain the commissioners until Maj. Eckert's arrival, and only to forward them to Fort Monroe on Maj. E.'s direction. "Supposing the proper points to be then reached, I dispatched the Secretary of State with the following instruction, Maj. Eckert, however, going ahead of him:

WASHINGTON, Jan. 31, 1865.—Hon W. H. Seward, Secretary of State: You will proceed to Fort Monroe, Virginia, there to meet and informally confer with Messrs. Stephens, Hunter and Campbell, on the basis of my letter to F. P. Blair, Esq., of January 18, 1865, a copy of which you have. You will make known to them that three things are indispensable, to wit:

First. The restoration of the national authority throughout all the States.

Second. No recoding by the Executive of the United States on the slavery question from the position assumed thereon in the late annual message to Congress.

Third. Acting [illegible] accordingly.

You will inform them that all propositions of theirs not inconsistent with the above will be considered and passed upon in a spirit of sincere liberality. You will hear all they may choose to say, and report it to me. You will not assume to definitely consummate anything. Yours, &c., A. LINCOLN."

Next a telegram from Maj. Eckert, City Point, Feb. 1, that he had delivered his instructions and received an "unsatisfactory" reply; that the commissioners had again written to Gen. Grant expressing a desire to go to Washington "to confer informally, with the President personally, in reference to the matters mentioned in his letter to Mr. Blair;" and that in reply he had notified them that they could not go except on compliance with the terms in his instructions. Mr. Lincoln says he was then about to recall Eckert and Seward, when he received a telegram from Gen. Grant stating that sending back the commissioners without an interview with one in authority would have a bad influence, and that he was "convinced upon conversation with Messrs. Stephens and Hunter, that their intentions are good and their desire sincere to restore peace and Union." This changed Mr. Lincoln's purpose of recall, and he telegraphed that he would at once leave for Fort Monroe and meet the commissioners, receiving before he left a dispatch from Grant that the commissioners had accepted the terms dictated. Proceeding at once to Fort Monroe, which he reached on the night of Feb. 2, he was placed in possession of the reply to Maj. Eckert which was "unsatisfactory," viz:—

CITY POINT, VA., Feb. 1, 1865.

Thomas T. Eckert, Major and A. D. C.:

Major: Your note, delivered by yourself this day, has been considered. For reply we have to say that we were furnished with a copy of the letter of President Lincoln to Francis P. Blair, of the 18th of January ultimo, another copy of which is appended to your note. Our intentions are contained in a letter of which the following is a copy:

RICHMOND, Jan'y 28, 1865.

"In conformity with the letter of Mr. Lincoln, of which the foregoing is a copy, you are to proceed to Washington city for informal conference with him upon the issues involved in the existing war, and for the purpose of securing peace to the two countries. With great respect, your obedient servant,

"JEFFERSON DAVIS."

The substantial effect to be obtained by the informal conference, is to ascertain upon what terms the existing war can be terminated honorably. Our instructions contemplate a personal interview between President Lincoln and ourselves at Washington, but with this explanation, we are ready to meet any person or persons that President Lincoln may appoint, at such place as he may designate. Our earnest desire is that a just and honorable peace may be agreed upon, and we are prepared to receive or to submit propositions which may possibly lead to the attainment of that end.

Very respectfully yours,
ALEX. H. STEPHENS,
R. M. T. HUNTER,
J. A. CAMPBELL.

And also of the letter in which the Commissioners yielded and agreed to confer upon the terms dictated by Lincoln, viz:

CITY POINT, VA., Feb'y 2, 1865.

Thomas T. Eckert, Major and A. D. C.:

Major: In reply to your verbal statement that your instructions did not allow you to alter the conditions upon which a passport could be given to us, we say that we are willing to proceed to Fortress Monroe, and there to have an informal conference with any person or persons that President Lincoln may appoint, on the basis of his letter to F P. Blair of the 18th of January, ultimo, or upon any other terms or conditions that he may hereafter propose, not inconsistent with the essential principles of self-government and popular rights upon which our institutions are founded. It is our earnest wish to ascertain, after a free interchange of ideas and information, upon what principles and terms, if any, a just and honorable peace can be established without the further effusion of blood, and to contribute our utmost efforts to accomplish such a result. We think it better to add that, in accepting your passports, we are not to be understood as committing ourselves to any thing but to carry to this informal conference the views and feelings above expressed.

Very respectfully, yours, &c.,
ALEX. H. STEPHENS,
J. A. CAMPBELL.

This closes the correspondence, to which Mr Lincoln adds the following:

On the morning of February 3, the three gentlemen Messrs Stephens, Hunter and Campbell, came aboard our steamer and had an interview with the Secretary of State and myself of several hours' duration. No question of preliminaries to the meeting was then and there made or mentioned. No other person was present. No papers were exchanged or produced, and it was in advance agreed that the conversation was to be informal and verbal merely. On our part, the whole substance of the instructions to the Secretary of State hereinbefore recited was stated and insisted upon, and nothing was said inconsistent therewith; while by the other party it was not said that in any event or on any condition they ever would consent to re-unite, and yet they equally omitted to declare that they would not consent. They seemed to desire a postponement of that question and the adoption of some other course first, which as some of them seemed to argue, might or might not lead to re-union, but which course we thought would amount to an indefinite postponement. The conference ended without result.

The foregoing, containing, as is believed, all the information sought, is respectfully submitted.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

Executive Mahsion, Feb. 10, 1865.

Appended to this correspondence is a dispatch from the yankee Sec'y of State to the yankee Minister to England, giving the following account of the whole business:—

"A few days ago Francis P. Blair, Esq., of Maryland, obtained from the President a simple leave to pass through our lines without definite views known to the Government. Mr. Blair visited Richmond, and on his return he showed to the President a letter which Jefferson Davis had written to Mr Blair, in which Davis wrote that Mr Blair was at liberty to say to President Lincoln that Davis was now, as he always has been, willing to send commissioners, if assured they would be received, or to receive any that should be sent—that he was not disposed to find obstacles in forms, that he would send commissioners to confer with the President with a view to the restoration of peace between the two countries if he could be assured they would be received.

"The President, therefore, on the 18th day of Jan'y, addressed a note to Mr Blair, in which the President, after acknowledging that he had read the note of Mr. Davis, said that he was, is, and always should be willing to receive any agents that Mr. Davis, or any other influential man now actually resisting the authority of the government, might send to confer informally with the President with a view to the restoration of peace to the people of our common country.

"Mr. Blair visited Richmond with this letter, and then again came back to Washington.

"On the 29th ult, we were advised from the camp of Lieut Gen. Grant that Alex. H. Stephens, R M T. Hunter and John A. Campbell were applying for leave to pass through the lines to Washington, as Peace Commissioners, to confer with the President. They were permitted by the Lieut Gen. to come to his headquarters to await there the decision of the President. Maj. Eckert was sent down to meet the party from Richmond at Gen. Grant's headquarters. The Major was directed to deliver to them a copy of the President's letter to Mr Blair, with a note to be addressed to them,

OBSERVER.

FAYETTEVILLE.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1865.

EVACUATION OF COLUMBIA.—It is reported, and beyond all doubt truly, that the Capital of South Carolina was evacuated on Friday. It is also reported, but not confirmed or believed, that Charleston has been evacuated.

We are not, of course, advised of the plans of Gen. Beauregard, or of the immediate causes or motives which led to his falling back from Columbia. We hope, however, that he has some purpose in view that will give us a victory over Sherman and stop his triumphant march. Let us be patient and hopeful, never permitting a thought of anything but final success to rest in our minds. We cannot afford to be conquered.

FROM WILMINGTON.—The mail arrangements between this place and Wilmington are utterly disgraceful. Letters and papers reach here generally in 48 hours, but there is one time in every week when it takes just double that time—four days! The last dates we have now, for instance, are of Thursday last. This evening, if lucky, we may have dates to Saturday afternoon. And this whilst Wilmington is threatened by the yankees and Fayetteville has important government works! Is the Postmaster General aware of all this? Oh yes, but what does he care?

By the boats we sometimes hear later news than the mail brings. We learn by passengers in the Kate, which left Wilmington on Saturday afternoon, that on Thursday and Friday the yankees shelled Fort Anderson heavily, and again for a short time on Saturday morning. No other particulars.

Firing was heard here yesterday, we learn.

THE PEACE CONFERENCE.—As part of the history of the times we copy elsewhere from United States papers of the 11th inst. the correspondence in relation to the late attempted Peace negotiations as communicated on the 10th inst. by President Lincoln to his Congress. Appended is Mr. Seward's dispatch to the U S. Minister at London, a *resume* of the whole transaction, manifestly intended to prevent, what is as manifestly dreaded, speedy foreign recognition of the independence of the Confederate States. To that end, the document is skillfully framed, as all the preceding correspondence had been artfully directed. Of course, the Confederate authorities are aware of the object and will take such measures as are possible to thwart it. What we have to do with the subject is to take a home view of it—a most gratifying one, too; for next to the restoration of Peace a return of unity to our own people was most desirable, and what little was lacking heretofore to ensure that unity is supplied by this official yankee version of the late conference at Fort Monroe.

That little apparently originated in the sensation dispatches of Washington correspondents to New York papers, giving what are now ascertained to have been wholly imaginary accounts of what was said and done by Lincoln and Seward on the one side and the Confederate Commissioners on the other in the late conference. These dispatches [published in the Press reports in the Observer of the 8th inst.] represented that our Commissioners insisted upon the recognition of Confederate Independence as a condition precedent to the opening of negotiations; that Mr. Stephens, indeed, "the most liberal of the rebel deputation," was willing to take a "temporary" recognition; but that "on recognition, absolute or temporary, the three Commissioners stood like rocks." These statements gave to the two or three so-called "Peace" organs in the Confederacy the evidently desired opportunity to mislead their readers and to continue their war against the interest and honor of their country. It at once became manifest to them that "Mr. Jefferson Davis" was as much opposed to peace as ever and that he had but attempted to swindle his peace-desiring countrymen; that he had sent Commissioners merely to make simple folk believe that he desired to negotiate, while in reality he had taken care to prevent any possibility of negotiation by providing as an "ultimatum" that the United States should yield in advance that recognition which we could only expect as the result of negotiation.

The report of our own Commissioners, Mr. Stephens at their head, disproved all this. But the malcontents preferred to [pretend to] believe that these distinguished and respected citizens had lied by suppression of the truth, which they appeared to think was only to be had from the anonymous romance writers in Washington. Well, this pretence is brushed away by Mr. Lincoln's report to his Congress and Mr. Seward's dispatch to his Minister abroad. These documents, the productions of the only citizens of the United States who were present, and who, therefore, are the only citizens of that country who know anything that occurred, directly contradict all the stories originated by the newspaper correspondents, and directly assert the following as facts: That all the difficulties in the way of securing the conference originated with Mr. Lincoln; that Mr. Lincoln was willing to receive the commissioners at all only on condition that they came to strange terms not of Peace between two warring nations but of *submission;* that after entertaining the idea of a conference he abandoned it in consequence of what Maj. Eckert called an "unsatisfactory" note, and finally only permitted the interview thinking submission to be the purpose of the Confederate Commissioners; that the Commissioners made no demands, but listened to Mr. Lincoln's imperious requirements; that they did *not* insist upon recognition and Independence as a condition precedent to negotiation, or even as the result of negotiation; that they seemed chiefly to favor a cessation of hostilities, a truce, out of which reunion might result; and, finally, that this, the only proposition they appear to have made, was peremptorily rejected by Mr. Lincoln, who would hear of no armistice, would listen to no proposition except (our armies disbanded and our Government abandoned) for absolute and immediate submission to the United States with its new Constitution, slavery abolition, confiscation laws and all, in return for which he could only promise Presidential liberality on other matters so far as the President can be liberal, viz: in the exercise of the pardoning power towards the rebellious people of the Confederacy whose lives are forfeit to the laws of the United States.

Such are the conditions of peace offered these States. In the language of the great and good LEE, "the choice between war and abject submission is before us. To such a proposal, brave men, with arms in their hands, can have but one answer."

CONFEDERATE PRISONERS HANDCUFFED IN PAIRS.—We have been looking in our Richmond papers for signs of retaliation for the gross outrage of the yankees in carrying through the streets of their cities Confederate soldiers handcuffed, two and two together. The fact is stated in the yankee papers, and not contradicted. There should be no delay in

GOV. VANCE'S PROCLAMATION.—It is not often that so admirable a production as this appears—so timely, so clear, so convincing. It puts the whole case before the people in a light too plain to be mistaken or gainsaid. The opposition of North Carolina to disunion; the compulsion of Lincoln's Proclamation which united her as one man in favor of it; her zeal in the cause; the subsequent flagging of some men who would rather "reign in hell than serve in Heaven;" their clamors for negotiation whilst there was nobody to negotiate with, and their promises of a renewed zeal for the prosecution of the war if negotiations were tried and failed—promises never made in good faith and now shamelessly broken—are all grouped together with a masterly hand. Then comes the result of the honest efforts of our government to negotiate peace; failure and insult and a demand of unconditional submission to an enemy more exacting and less humane than any people were ever cursed with as rulers; the consequences of such a ruinous and dastardly submission—consequences which justify the inquiry, "is there a man in all this honorable, high spirited and noble commonwealth, so steeped in every conceivable meanness, so blackened with all the guilt of treason, or so damned with all the leprosy of cowardice, as to say, yes, we will submit to all this!" Strange and unnatural as it may seem, there are such men, few indeed, but still some such. Men who counsel submission to such a demand as Lincoln's, are improperly located—they belong among their kindred spirits the yankees, and there they ought to go, or to be sent. Rid of these traitors, who advocated secession, who voted for war, who pledged "the last dollar and the last man" to sustain war, and who yet now strive to destroy the Confederacy, we should be rid of clogs, croakers, pests, in short, Yankees in spirit and in act. Out with them, and let true men fight this battle without them and against them. The meanest deserter that hides in his den by day, and robs by night, is not so mean and baleful as these poor cravens who now join hands with the enemy whom they once defied and whom they induced others to defy and fight, and die in fighting.

But we have been led beyond our purpose, which was only to express our admiration for this glorious State paper, and to urge our readers to give it another and another perusal. It is worthy of their deepest consideration. We have printed several thousand copies of it, along with Gen. Lee's Order in relation to absentees, and the proceedings of the meeting here on Thursday last, for gratuitous distribution.

SPIRIT OF THE PEOPLE.—Our glorious army is speaking its defiance to Lincoln and its scornful rejection of his demand of "unconditional submission," and the people are now taking up the cry. We point with pride and pleasure to the proceedings of the very large and enthusiastic meeting held here on Thursday, of which we have endeavored to give a faint sketch. The brief synopsis of the speeches delivered on the occasion necessarily fails to give any adequate idea of the "thoughts that breathe and words that burn" to which the audience was treated; but they all present, even in this imperfect form, matter for thought, for encouragement, for confidence in our final triumph.

Gov. Vance was invited to speak at this meeting, but was prevented by a previous engagement on military business. A large portion of his Proclamation, received that morning, was read by Mr. Fuller.

We have heard of four other meetings in this State, so far. The first was at Charlotte, where resolutions offered by Gen. Young were adopted, and the meeting adjourned for further action on Thursday.

The second was at Pittsborough, which a friend who happened to be present describes to us as one of peculiar interest. There was a large gathering, and the action was unanimous except for one croaking No. The speakers were Hugh Waddell, John Manning and Maurice Q. Waddell, Esqs. Our informant says he has rarely been so much impressed as by the remarks of Mr. Hugh Waddell. Aged and feeble, he rose, and, supporting himself by the railing by which he stood, he began: "I am an old man. I was taught by my mother when a child that I was born a freeman. I am too old to render my country much service in the field, but whatever I have is at her command. One of my sons has offered a libation to liberty with his blood. I can have no motive to deceive my fellow-citizens in what I shall say, for I shall soon have to render my account to my God." He then reviewed the history of the struggle, showed that the North had been the aggressor, paid a glowing tribute to our heroic soldiers, detailed the efforts that had been made to negotiate, and indignantly spurned the terms offered by Lincoln. He referred to the oppression upon Ireland, the land of his ancestry, after its subjugation; to the fact that for 200 years no man was allowed to keep a gun in his house. He asked if *we* were prepared for such a fate; if *we* were willing to submit to peace upon such terms? Instead of it, he exhorted to unity and harmony, in a common and universal resistance to the foe.

The third meeting was at Chapel Hill, where resolutions pledging anew devotion to the cause were adopted by a decided majority, notwithstanding, as we hear, considerable efforts were made to muster forces against them, and notwithstanding, as we greatly regret to learn, Samuel F. Phillips, Esq., member of the Legislature from that county, delivered a speech against them, and endeavored to have a substitute passed for calling a State Convention. The friends of this distinguished gentleman, among whom we have long stood, have heard of his position with the greatest surprise and regret.

The fourth meeting was held in Sampson county on the 11th inst. It adopted true and loyal resolutions.

THE SPIRIT OF THE ARMY.—The Virginia papers continue to bring accounts of meetings in the Army of Northern Virginia, among soldiers of the various States, including of course those of North Carolina, in which the uniform resolve is to fight this fight till the "achievement of independence, or to perish nobly struggling for it." They "cast from them with scorn the arrogant and insolent propositions made to our Commissioners by Abraham Lincoln," and demand "the application of every resource to the vigorous prosecution of the war as the only means of obtaining an honorable peace."

One Brigade which adopted such resolutions as these is composed of men from Northwestern Virginia, many of whom have not seen their homes since the war began.

GEN. LEE'S APPEAL TO ABSENTEES.—The great and good General-in-Chief of the Confederate Armies has appealed to the absentees from the army to take their places again and do their duty to their country, their families, and themselves; offering to them a free pardon upon prompt compliance. We trust that many will respond to this paternal call. To facilitate their doing so, we respectfully propose, on the suggestion of a friend from a neighboring county, that some influential gentlemen in each county, or neighborhood, shall prepare a written guaranty that they will receive and save harmless all who may report to them, and will see that they have safe conduct to their respective commands. Such a paper,

FROM EUROPE

The Richmond Sentinel publishes extracts from a private letter from London, from "a gentleman whose personal character and social position are guarantees for whatever he states as matters of fact," from which we copy as follows:

"We have a theory which has come to be a conviction, and it leads us to feel certain that it would neither suit the interest or policy of France or England to permit your subjugation, even if that could be attained. I am satisfied the governments think with us in this. The fact that you seem worse placed than heretofore, has aroused an apprehension—an alarm of reunion. They say Napoleon has always declared it to be out of the power of Federal might to conquer you. Hence he was in no hurry to move, as it gave him an excellent chance of consummating his own schemes on Mexico, and perfecting a vast plan of Colonial Empire, on the Cæsarine Proconsular principle. They who say these things ought to know.

It is they who, also, say that the instant he began to fear the possibility of your being worsted, he entered into a project for the joint mediation of France, Spain and Austria, on the ground that after the 4th of next March, Mr. Lincoln will not have a political claim over the Confederate States. It is held that, having voted in 1860, they were bound by the consequences; but, as they did not vote for or against him this time and had nothing whatever to do with his election, and as they have for four years most heroically demonstrated their aversion to his sway and his section, and manifested their ability to maintain themselves in the character they assume, THEY ARE, and must be regarded as, an independent people. I understand Lord Stanly will sustain a motion in Parliament, early next March, for the end contemplated.

"But whatever may come of the Parliamentary, or non-Parliamentary, discussion of any of these theories, I am persuaded that the movement I told you about last June has been made, and that Austria and Spain will be employed as active agents in your affairs by next March. That France is connected with this movement there can be no doubt, and that England knows of it is equally certain. If England, under Russell's influence, should hesitate, France will not pause to take any favorable turn in events. The interests of Brazil give zest to Austria's action. These and her own interests show Spain what has to be done. With France committed to the consequences, they would require no more. That the Pope has worked for this is not denied by persons who are conversant with his views, and that he has often spoken in warm terms of your manful struggle is known to all Europe. I suppose you are aware that His Holiness, as a Bishop, was one of the most zealous supporters of the recognition of Chili, and that he was sometime in South America on a mission. If I mistake not he stayed at Norfolk, Va., doing "works of mercy" on his way to or from that mission. At all events he is cordially attached to your cause, and I take that fact as no little significant in connection with the movement I believe to be on foot in the three great Catholic nations. If there was nothing else, it lends great strength to the supposition. But, there is much more. Here, in England, every nerve is strained to put our navy on the most formidable footing. This, during a time when we are at peace. The same thing is being done in France, for the French navy. This may all mean something as to the future attitude of both Powers—each toward the other; but, there is ostensibly such a harmony of action at present, it looks as if they understood each other perfectly well, and were not dissatisfied in the least with what either is doing. Of that I am not quite sure.

FOOD FOR THE SOLDIERS.—It is stated in the Wilmington Journal that there is a deficiency in both the quantity and quality of the rations furnished to the troops below Wilmington. In consequence, Mr. Jas. McCormick started out with a subscription paper, which he headed with $500, and obtained from thirty persons the sum of $3,685.

These soldiers, in addition to their claim upon us all as Confederate soldiers and as North Carolinians, whom we should save as far as possible from suffering, are defending Fayetteville not less than Wilmington, and we also should contribute what we can to their relief. Will not some gentlemen who have leisure see what will be contributed here for that object?

Four war meetings have been held in Richmond, during the last week, and speeches made and resolutions adopted for the maintenance of the war, until Southern independence is achieved.

We also see the proceedings of meetings in the army of Virginia, published, breathing the same spirit of resistance to the enemy. We do not know how these war meetings in the army are gotten up; but we do know, from private letters and other sources, that our brave boys, generally, who have borne the hardships and brunt of the war for years, are anxious for peace—of course, upon honorable terms.—*Salem Press.*

Is there anybody, in the army or out of it, that is not anxious for an honorable peace? There may be a difference of opinion as to what would be an honorable peace; but we trust that the Press does not think that the terms offered by Lincoln—his only terms—would be "honorable terms"? Does it?

General Exchange of Prisoners.—More than 2000 Confederate prisoners have already been returned to Richmond since the re-institution of the exchange. The truce boat went down yesterday, expecting to bring up from Boulware's landing about 1000 more. In addition to these, we learn that Col. Mulford expected there would arrive yesterday at Fortress Monroe, en route for exchange, 2000 of our prisoners. So far, most of these men have been drawn from the prison at Point Lookout, and the most distant prisons will probably have their turn served last. Point Lookout is probably the most populous of the yankee prisons, and contained some time ago 7000 Confederate prisoners. The number of Confederates in the hands of the enemy, if reduced to privates, will, we learn, exceed 40,000 men. The return of our prisoners at this time is most beneficial in a military point of view.—*Richmond Examiner.*

Disaffection among Grant's Negro Troops.—Yankee deserters who have recently come into our lines around Richmond report that there is great uneasiness and commotion among the negro soldiers in Grant's army at the prospect of employing blacks in the Confederate army with the same rewards as the yankees hold out, and that they show a general inclination to desert to our lines, prefering to fight for the South, if they can equally secure their freedom by such service. Our information on this subject comes from a very intelligent source. They have great horror of the cold climate and other unpleasant things in the North; and a prevalent desire exists among them to get homes in the South, by taking advantage of the anticipated proffer of freedom on our part to those of the negroes who may be employed in our army.

It is suggested that this sentiment is so extensive and exhibits so much of discretion, that our authorities may make important use of it by some sort of official notice or appeal to them, to assure them of such protection and *status* as the Government may determine to assign to this class of deserters.

Rich. Examiner, 17th.

Negroes Volunteering.—The bill to put a number of negroes in the military service, to be used in such employments as the Commander-in-Chief may determine, will be taken up in the House of Representatives this morning.

Some local interest has been manifested in this measure since it was known yesterday that quite a military fever had broken out among negroes employed at the various hospitals here, and that they are already organizing volunteer companies to take the field against the Yankees. Several hundred of them have professed an anxiety to volunteer; and at one of the hospitals, yesterday, fifty-two out of seventy four negroes employed there agreed to enlist "for the war," and organized themselves into a military company in view of legislation now pending.—*Richmond Examiner, 15th.*

Congress.—RICHMOND, Feb. 16.—The Senate today recommitted the exemption bill and then went into secret session on the negro troops bill. The House passed several Senate bills, including that remitting penalties for non-delivery of bacon tithes in 1864, and went into secret session on the negro soldier bill.

The third Quarter of Mrs. McNeill's and Mrs Lennon's SCHOOL will begin on Monday the 20th inst, and continue ten weeks

Tuition $100 in advance.

Feb'y 14 10-3tpd

Headquarters Taylor's Batt'n, (Fort Anderson,)
February 11, 1865.

ALL officers and men of the 36th N. C. T., not cap-

THE FORT FISHER PRISONERS

The Raleigh Confederate this morning has the following list of sick and wounded of the Garrison of Fort Fisher, now in the enemy's hands, furnished by a Surgeon just returned:

3d Battalion—Co C—W T Lowe, stunned; A Coble, amputation right arm; G W Edwards, wounded in foot; J W Farmer, foot; J J Peel, leg, serious; J R White, foot; W G Ingram, thigh; C J Jenkins, amputated right arm

13th Battalion—D—J W Morgan thigh, Jno Davis bronchitis, E N Joyner fractured cranium, Walter Bruce arm, (died Jan'y 20,) Jas Jackson, knee.

1st Battalion—D—J D Baker leg, (died Feb'y 5,) A Blow stunned, H McQueen thigh, K B McKimmon shoulder, M D McNeal left thigh, J D Kenedy foot, T McMillan (died of pneumonia, Jan'y 27.) K A Evans, leg, (died Jan'y 26.) R A Johnson thigh, R D McMillan leg.

C—Daniel Hare left arm amputated.

10th N C Reg't—L W Menus, K, flesh wound in side, W T Murphy, K, thigh, J R Coleman, City Battalion, typhoid fever, A Tyson, B, flesh wound.

36th N. C. Regiment—B—D R Perry arm, (died Jan. 19;) E J Nance foot, D McNorton both legs, (died Jan. 18.)

C—N Stephenson knee severe, D Mathews amputated hand, J W Autry fractured lower jaw, J M Lookoman amputated arm, W Serraner leg, J A Ross fracture of upper jaw, W Seesoms foot and leg, L G Smith arm amputated, C T Jenkins arm amputated.

D—A J Wheeler ancle, J H Fisher concussion of brain, D Riley concussion of brain, J H risher fracture of cranium, John Riley head, John Daile hernia.

E—J B McLean thigh, (died Jan. 29;) R Ryland lung, A Strickland leg, Moses Tyson arm.

F—W B Randolph arm slight, E Parton thigh (died Feb. 7;) John Weaver bowels, (died Jan. 28;) R Lane head, A Howriston arm, B Pope thigh, W C Hardy thigh; (died Jan. 28;) F M Hap ear off, J T Ethridge arm, Thos Locke arm severe, J Marks head severe, C P Mathews, bowels, (died Jan 19;) H Throner head, (died Jan. 29;) Jas Milner, (died Jan. 21.)

G—D Pruant arm amputated, J M Mintz shoulder, G P Johnson stunned, T W Walton leg, R Cook wrist and thigh, W Biggs thigh.

H—W C Sutton thigh, Jas Whitted thigh, T A Peterson shoulder, (died Jan 29.)

K—H Hickman arm amputated, Lt J S Wascot hip, J S Milliken head, J O Evans diarrhœa, T W Williams, catarrh, L J McLean measles, S W Lewis breast.

40th N. C. Regiment—C—N J Simmons arm.

D—J T Bradley arm, (died Jan. 30;) W Cummings thigh, D Page side, M P Seaton head, (died Jan. 19.)

E—N Jackson thigh.

F—J W Brown fracture thigh, K Church fracture thigh, F A Shotwell side, W L Barnes neck.

G—L Kornegay thigh, W F Morton back, (died Jan. 26;) — Mathewson back, Captain Buchan back, Serct S H Williams, (died Jan 28;) C D Brooks, (died Feb. 5;) W T Quinn thigh, H Harris side, J P Martin knee.

H—N R Woody (died Feb. 7)

K—H Harrison elbow, severe, D Allen amputation of leg, D G Powers amputation of leg, J C Smith foot, G R Thompson hand, G W Ballentine leg, J H McLeod thigh, S B Clark leg, J D Wilson arm, W O Karroll leg, (died Jan. 29.)

FOR THE OBSERVER.

BIVOUAC, 1ST N. C. BAT. SHARP SHOOTERS, Feb. 8th.

Editors Observer:—The following is a list of the casualties in this command in the battles on Hatcher's Creek, on the 5th, 6th and 7th inst.:

Co. A, Lt. R. W. Woodruff, Com'd'g—Wounded, Lt. W. L. Maten, foot, slight; Serg't Monroe May, hand and leg, severe; (in hands of the enemy;) Privates J. C. Snow, knee severe; Jones Shugart, left arm amputated; Wm. Crews, leg, slight; James May, foot, severe. Missing, Corp'l W. D. Herrington, Private W. G. Allen.

Co. B, Lt. C. A. Shutz, Com'd'g—Killed, Private Aug. Shouse. Wounded, Privates Reuben Chitty, face, severe; J. A. Kizer, breast, slight. Missing, Privates A. A. Clewell and Luther Waugh.

R. E. WILSON, Capt. Com'd'g.

FROM LANE'S BRIGADE.

The following is an extract from a letter dated near Petersburg, Feb'y 12th:

"Since this day a week ago there has been some heavy fighting a few miles to our right. We were shifting up and down the lines for several days through that awful sleet and snow of the early part of last week; but, though we gradually slided down to the right and the rear of the fighting came nearer and nearer, we missed the fray by two Brigade fronts—for which we are duly thankful. Everything seems quiet now, and we are back in our quarters.

"I hope there will be meetings held all over North Carolina similar to those in Richmond, for they would greatly raise the reputation of our State and cheer the soldiers and the Confederacy."

Capt. Braddy's Company at Fort Fisher.—We had a conversation, this morning, with a Surgeon who went on with our prisoners captured at Fort Fisher. We made inquiry of him as to the action of Capt. Braddy's company; and we are gratified to be able to say, that the statements heretofore extensively circulated, and by us published, are altogether inaccurate. Capt. Breddy's company was not in charge of the sally port; but was stationed on the right, near the angle, and towards the sea. Capt. Adams commanded at the sally port with a battery. The enemy did not first obtain entrance by the sally port, but to the left of it. Lastly, this gentleman says he knows that a portion of Braddy's company fought desperately; among others, he named especially Lt. Charles Williams.—*Rat. Confed., 18th.*

General Order of Gen. Lee on assuming the position of General-in-Chief.—The following, says the Richmond Sentinel of the 17th, is a copy of Gen. Lee's General Order on assuming command of all the armies of the Confederate States:

HEAD'QRS CONFEDERATE ARMY, 9th Feb'y 1865.

GENERAL ORDERS, NO. I.

In obedience to General Orders No. 3, Adjutant & Inspector General's office, 6th February, 1865, I assume command of the military forces of the Confederate States. Deeply impressed with the difficulties and responsibility of the position, and humbly invoking the guidance of Almighty God, I rely for success upon the courage and fortitude of the Army, sustained by the patriotism and firmness of the people, confident that their united efforts, under the blessing of Heaven, will secure peace and independence.

The Headquarters of the Army, to which all special reports and communications will be addressed, will be for the present with the Army of Northern Virginia. The stated and regular returns and reports of each Army and Department will be forwarded as heretofore to the Office of the Adjutant and Inspector General.

R. E. LEE, General.

From the United States.—RICHMOND, Feb. 16. U. S. papers of the 14th devote much space to the speeches &c. at the great meeting in Richmond.

The House of Representatives (yankee) tabled, 73 to 42, resolutions requesting the President to use all honorable means to bring about a peace with the enemy, with a proper guarantee which shall protect the Southern States in the enjoyment of their rights. Also, 80 to 52, resolutions declaring it would be inconsistent with honor and dignity to offer further terms to the rebels.

A fleet of 56 vessels is at at Cairo with Gen. A. J. Smith's forces on board bound down the Mississippi river.

Twenty-one vessels loaded with cotton from Savannah arrived at New York on the 14th.

Yankee Items.—The English Government is vigorously fortifying at Quebec and Montreal.

The yankee debt is officially stated at $2,153,735,444 26.

Rumors were current in Washington last Monday that Seward was off on another peace mission and that France and England have intimated to the rebels their intention of recognizing them after the 4th of March.

Henry S. Foote was never in Fort Warren, says the New York Times, but left for Europe just as any other citizen of the United States would leave.

A number of communications, obituaries, &c. are unavoidably deferred, to make room for the long articles on the preceding page.

MARRIED,

Near Lumber Bridge, Robeson county, on the 14th inst., by Rev. Malcom McNair, Mr. DUNCAN C. MALLOY to Miss M. ALICE COBB, 2d daughter of Col. S. J. Cobb.

In Moore county, on the evening of the 12th inst., by John McCrummen, Esq., Mr. ROBERT W. BARRETT to Miss LOUISA ROSSAW SNOW COX, all of Moore.

In Moore county, on the 9th inst., by D. B. McIver, Mr. JOSEPH A. JOHNSON to Miss ELIZA PHILLIPS.

On the 3d inst., at the residence of Mr. Daniel Stuart, by Evander McLeod, Esq., Mr. DANIEL WATSON, of Richmond county, to Miss MAG GRAHAM daughter of Wesley and Sarah Graham of Moore county, N. C.

DIED,

Suddenly, of congestion of the brain, in Rockingham, on the 12th inst, JOHN W. LEAK, Jr., son of Wm. C Leak, Esq, in the 17th year of his age. He was a noble boy—amiable, intelligent and pious—and is greatly lamented by all who knew him.—Com.

LADDERS AND BUCKETS WANTED.

WANTED immediately, 50 Fire Buckets, 25 good

BY TELEGRAPH.

REPORTS OF THE PRESS ASSOCIATION.

Yankee Raids in Eastern North Carolina.—GOLDSBOROUGH, Feb'y 19.—A yankee force from Newbern, some 500 strong, passed through Greenville yesterday, and when last heard from were advancing on Tarborough. It is thought a mere raiding party. Gen. Baker is after them.

Another party is reported coming up the south side of Neuse River, but the report needs confirmation. No trouble is anticipated.

From Wilmington.—WILMINGTON, Feb 18.—The enemy shelled Fort Anderson furiously yesterday afternoon nearly all night and this forenoon.

It is reported that a land force also attacked our forces at Anderson, but were repulsed. Cannonading is still going on at 1 P. M. No particulars.

From the United States.—RICHMOND, Feb. 19.—New York papers of the 16th say that the draft did not take place on the 15th. A Washington telegram says preparations for the draft will be consummated as rapidly as possible. If volunteering is active it may be indefinitely postponed. Gold in N. Y. 208.

No other Press dispatches have reached us since the night of the 16th. The wires have been occupied with Government business since the fall of Columbia. Not even a dispatch announcing that fact has made its way through for the Press.

From Wilmington.—The enemy yesterday afternoon was engaged in shelling Fort Anderson, with one of his monitors. The firing continued until late in the evening, and was, we understand of a severe character. There is a rumor on the street this morning that Fort Anderson has fallen, but we regard the report as premature and purely sensational.

We understand, however, on authority that cannot be doubted, that the enemy's land force has been strongly reinforced and that he has transferred his main force to the right bank of the river. We have reason to believe that he is now advancing in heavy force from the direction of Smithville. It would be well for our people to be prepared for the worst.—*Wilmington Carolinian, 18th.*

[Just before going to press Mr. Orrell kindly brought us the above paper, brought by his boat, the Kate.]

From the Fort Fisher Prisoners.—A friend in town is in receipt of a letter, by flag of truce, from his son captured at the fall of Fort Fisher. Our gallant boys are all in Fort Columbus, on Governor's Island, in New York harbor. They are comfortable and well treated. Fifty prisoners are assigned together in one room. Gen. Whiting is with the boys in Fort Columbus and is slowly recovering from his wounds. Col. Lamb, whose wounds it would seem were of a severe nature, was left in hospital at Fortress Monroe.—*Wil. Carolinian 15th.*

HEADQR'S ARMIES OF THE C. STATES,
11th February, 1865.

GENERAL ORDERS, No. 2.

In entering upon the campaign about to open, the General-in-Chief feels assured that the soldiers who have so long and so nobly borne the hardships and dangers of the war, require no exhortation to respond to the calls of honor and duty.

With the liberty transmitted by their forefathers they have inherited the spirit to defend it. The choice between war and abject submission is before them. To such a proposal brave men with arms in their hands can have but one answer. They cannot barter manhood for peace, nor the right of self-government for life or property.

But justice to them requires a sterner admonition to those who have abandoned their comrades in the hour of peril. A last opportunity is offered them to wipe out the disgrace and escape the punishment of their crimes. By authority of the President of the Confederate States, a pardon is announced to such deserters and men improperly absent, as shall return to the commands to which they belong within the shortest possible time, not exceeding twenty days from the publication of this order, at the headquarters of the department in which they may be.

Those who may be prevented by interruption of communications, may report within the time specified to the nearest enrolling officer or other officer on duty, to be forwarded as soon as practicable, and upon presenting a certificate from such officer showing compliance with this requirement, will receive the pardon hereby offered.

Those who have deserted to the service of the enemy or who have deserted after having been once pardoned for the same offence, and those who shall desert, or absent themselves without authority after the publication of this order, are excluded from its benefits. Nor does the offer of pardon extend to other offences than desertion and absence without permission.

By the same authority, it is also declared that no general amnesty will again be granted, and those who refuse to accept the pardon now offered, or who shall hereafter desert or absent themselves without leave, shall suffer such punishment as the Courts may impose, and no application for clemency will be entertained.

Taking new resolution from the fate which our enemies intend for us, let every man devote all his energies to the common defence. Our resources, wisely and vigorously employed, are ample, and with a brave army, sustained by a determined and united people, success, with God's assistance, cannot be doubtful. The advantages of the enemy will have but little value if we do not permit them to impair our resolution. Let us, then, oppose constancy to adversity, fortitude to suffering and courage to danger, with the firm assurance that He who gave freedom to our fathers will bless the efforts of their children to preserve it.

11-6t R. E. LEE, Gen.

Headqr's, Army of the C. S.,
11th February, 1865.

GENERAL ORDERS
No 8.

THE discipline and efficiency of the army have been greatly impaired by men leaving their proper commands to join others, in which they find service more agreeable.

This practice, almost as injurious in its consequences as the crime of desertion, by the Articles of War exposes the offender to a similar punishment, and subjects the officer receiving him to dismissal from the army.

It is therefore declared that the provisions of General Order No 2 of this date, from army headquarters, apply to such men as have left their proper commands and joined others without being regularly transferred. They will receive the pardon promised in that order upon complying with its conditions, or suffer the consequences attached to neglecting it.

The names of such absentees will be forthwith reported to these headquarters by the officers with whom they are serving, and immediate measures taken to return them to their proper commands.

As soon as practicable an inspection will be made, and charges will be preferred against those who neglect to enforce this order.

11 6t] R. E. LEE, General.

FAYETTEVILLE MARKET.—Feb'y 20.

REVIEW OF THE MARKET.

Bacon 6 00. Pork 4 00. Lard 6 00.
Beef 1 50 to 2 00 per pound, retail.
Beeswax 6 00. Butter 10 00.
Cotton 2 00. Coffee 50 00.
Cotton Yarn—50 00 to 65 00 per bunch.
Copperas, retail $8 to $10. Dried Fruit $2.
Cotton Cards, Fayetteville make, $40 to $75 per pair.
Eggs 3 00 per dozen.
Flour $500 to $525.
Fodder $15 to $20. Hay $15. Shucks $15.
Flaxseed 15 00 per bu.
Fayetteville 4-4 Sheetings, 5 50 by bale.
Grain—Corn $30 to $35. Wheat $50. Rye $55 00.
Oats 15 00. Peas $30 00 to 35 00.
Hides—Green 3 50, dry 6 00 to 7 00.
Iron—Swedes $7 50, country made 4 00 to 5 00.
Leather 30 00 to 40 00.
Liquors—Corn Whiskey $25 00. Apple and Peach Brandy $35 00. Grape Brandy $80 to $100.
Molasses, country made, 30 00 by bbl.
Nails 4 50 to 5 00 per lb.
Onions $35 per bushel. Powder $50 per lb.
Potatoes—Irish $25 bush; sweet $15.
Rice 2 00.
Brown Sugar 15 00 to 18 00.
Soda retail 12 50 per lb. Shot $10 to $12.
Soap—Family Bar 5 00 per lb., Toilet 8 00 to 10 00.
Salt 90 00 per bushel.
Tallow 6 00. Wool $10.

Corrected by E. L. PEMBERTON.

BOARDING.

MRS. HART is prepared to entertain transient Board-

The North Carolina Delegation in Congress —A very gratifying Fact.—We were informed by a gentleman on yesterday, who is just from Richmond, that our Congressional delegation are thoroughly united in favor of maintaining the war to the last, rather than submit to the degrading terms offered by the enemy. Prominent (said he) among those who despise and spurn the wicked efforts of our foe at subjugation, is Dr. J. T. Leach. It would be of vast importance to our people, if the delegation would unite in a manifesto to the people, on the subject of "union and harmony;" and as soon as possible, if they will prepare to meet the people, and confer with them how best to employ the resources of the country for the maintenance of the cause.

Raleigh Confederate, 16th.

Sewing Machine and Furniture AT AUCTION.

On to morrow, Tuesday Feb 21st 1865, will be sold at Auction,
1 Sewing Machine;
1 Bedstead; 1 Table;
1 Tackle, Block and Rope;
20 Reams Letter Paper;
50 Bushels dry Salt;
1 Lot Tools, Augurs, Planes, &c;
1 Large Pail;
1 Beaver Hat;
And variety of other articles

JOHN H. COOK, Auc'r.
Feb 20 1tpd

AUCTION SALES,
By H. McMILLAN, Auctioneer.

WILL be sold on Tuesday the 21st Feb'y at 3 o'clock P. M., a large lot of HOUSEHOLD and KITCHEN FURNITURE, consisting of Tables, Chairs, Wardrobes, Bureaus, Feather Beds, Mattresses, 1 Fine Sole Leather Trunk, Books, Cups and Saucers, and Crockery generally.
Feby 20 1t

Top Buggy, Horse and Harness AT AUCTION.

To-morrow, Tuesday 21st inst., will be sold
1 Fine Top Buggy;
1 " Buggy Horse;
1 set Harness.

JOHN H. COOK, Auc'r.
Feb'y 20, 1865. 1tpd

Farm Hands to Hire till 1st Jan'y 1866.

I HAVE 6 FARM HANDS to hire till first Jan'y next. For further particulars inquire of
JOHN H. COOK.
Feb'y 20 1tpd

DWELLING HOUSE For Rent.

A GOOD COMFORTABLE DWELLING HOUSE convenient to the business part of the Town, with all the necessary out-houses. Apply to
J. H. COOK
Feb. 15. 16-2pd

Plantation for Rent.

THE subscribers offer for rent their PLANTATION, on the Cape Fear River, opposite Summerville in Harnett county, for 3 years. The farm contains 3 or 400 acres of cleared land, of which a fair proportion is River bottom which was not cultivated last year. There are 10 acres sown in wheat, and an excellent range for negs. The facilities for improving with swamp muck are very great. Terms $3000 cash and one fourth of the crop each year. Apply to us at Bare'sville.
C. S. BARBEE & BRO
eb'y 20 11tf

WANTED,

A WOODEN MORTAR and PESTLE, suitable for beating Rice or Hominy. Apply at this office.
Feb'y 20

Garden Seed.

A SUPPLY of fresh GARDEN SEED, of every description; growth of 1864, at H. ERAMBERT'S.
Feb'y 18 11-4tpd

Teacher Wanted.

A SINGLE MAN qualified to prepare boys for college. School small.
Address JOHN C. SMITH.
Aversasboro', N. C., Feb'y 20. 11 2t*2tpaid

WANTED,

HIDES to tan on shares. Terms one third of the leather. I have several years experience and warrant good leather. JAS. TRAMBLE.
Gray's Creek, Feb'y 16. 11*2tpd

An Overseer Wanted.

I WANT to employ an OVERSEER. He must be clear of conscript, and sober, steady and attentive; one in whom confidence can be placed. Early application is desirable.
Address BOX 173.
Fayetteville P. O., Feb'y 17. 11tf

Tithing Notice for Cumberland County.

FARMERS who have failed to "list" any of the crops taxed in kind, produced during the year 1864, (except bacon) are notified that the last of the days of grace expires on Monday the 27th inst. On that day I will attend at the Market House in Fayetteville, (up stairs,) and shall expect to meet *every man* who has failed to meet the Assessor at the appointments. This is the last opportunity,—those who cannot attend will find it decidedly to their interest to have some friend or agent to list for them at the above named appointment.
C. H. BLOCKER, Assessor 2d Dist
Feb'y 15 11 3t*2t

Dundarroch, N. C., Feb'y 15, 1865.

ALL the officers and men of the 10th Battalion Home Guard are hereby notified to appear at Cumberton, on Saturday 25th inst., to consolidate the companies in

SECRETARY BENJAMIN ON THE CRISIS.

The Richmond Sentinel has the following report of Hon. J. P. Benjamin's speech at the great meeting in Richmond on Thursday last:

Mr. Benjamin commenced by referring to the great change in the public feeling which the last week has brought. The querulousness engendered by defeats, and the hurtful but natural delusion that we might perhaps gain by negotiation what had been denied to our arms, threatened that harmony of counsel and fraternity of feeling without which all will be lost. Now all is changed. Everybody is pleased. What has caused this change? There has been no recent victory to our arm; no ally has come to our aid; no European government has broken the fetters of inaction. On the contrary, Beauregard is confronting sup[illegible]ces in Carolina. No voice, borne by the [illegible] breeze, comes across the waters to assure us of aid or hope. The cause is found in the fact that the issue on which this war hangs has been made plain, and has been brought home to us. We must conquer or be slaves, and to live a slave has never entered into the *dream* of a Confederate. [Cries of never! and applause.]

No Confederate, said Mr B, ever dreamed of such terms as have come back to us from Fortress Monroe. The President sent our Commissioners there, not indeed with a blank sheet on which to write the terms of a settlement, but he wrote only one word upon it—Independence! "Our right to self government recognized, write anything else, and I'll sign the deed." President Lincoln's answer was, "Strip off your uniforms, bow the neck and bow the knee; put halters around the necks of your officers, and bring them to me—you know me, I am a merciful man." [Laughter.] As soon as these ignominious demands became known to our people, at once there was one simultaneous universal voice and universal resolve to *live free or perish*. [Loud applause.]

You would like to know, said Mr B, something about this peace negotiation. [Voice—Tell us!] I am going to tell you. President Lincoln, in his annual message last December, very distinctly declared that he was acquainted with our determination to have independence, and that no attempt at negotiation could succeed on any other basis. Six weeks after that, a citizen, [F P Blair] known to be a confidant of President Lincoln, suddenly appeared in Richmond. He had a confidential interview with President Davis. What passed at that interview I know, but I will not tell. [Laughter.] When he left, the President gave him a note to this effect: I put down in writing what I have said to you in words. Notwithstanding the repulse of previous efforts, I am ready to send commissioners, if I had any assurance that they would be received, to confer upon the means of restoring peace to the two countries.

Not long afterwards, President Davis was furnished with a note written by President Lincoln to Mr. Blair, to this effect: As you have shown me the note of Mr. Davis, you may say to him that I will receive any messenger informally sent to confer upon measures for restoring peace to our country.

It was not expected, said Mr B, that in this preliminary interchange, our independence would have been conceded. It was supposed to have been reserved for a price. No difficulty was therefore felt, because of the use of the term "our country," instead of "two countries." Two lines endorsed upon and referring to this note of President Lincoln, were the authority under which Vice President Stephens, Hon R. M. T. Hunter and Judge Campbell, left our lines for an informal consultation with President Lincoln.

Mr Benjamin believed then, and believed now, that when Mr Blair came to Richmond, there was an opening for some arrangement that would at least have staunched the flow of blood for a season, and given time to arrange a permanent pacification. So believing, it is not wonderful that the President, whose fault was too much tenderness, and who felt as if every blood drop shed by his countrymen came from his own heart, should have embraced the opportunity. The Vice President, whose hopes and confidence were far stronger, was requested to head the deputation. He (Mr. B) believed the mission would have succeeded had not some change come over the mind of President Lincoln subsequent to the time of his sending Mr. Blair to Richmond.

Mr B said, they further knew, that if the scheme of which the Vice President was sanguine and which others thought presented at least a chance, should come to nought, its failure would be the signal for a grand uprising of our people, and for that grand unity of effort which alone was necessary to secure success. This, we had now the happiness of witnessing. If we had failed to attain the result we primarily hoped, we are at least reaping the alternate advantage.

Mr Benjamin then proceeded to speak at much length, and with great eloquence, on the duties demanded of the people and of Government, in the circumstances which surround us. Something more is needed, he said, than good resolutions and brave words. The operations of the Government and of the army require *means*, and cannot be conducted without them. These means are in the country, and we must hold them as belonging to the country. They belong to us for the public uses, or they belong to the Yankees. If we fail to call them out, and employ them, the Yankees will come and take them. They are resources placed at our command as trustees for freedom, and the trust must be executed. [Loud applause.] The people ought to cry out to the Government, take what you want! [Cheers.] For himself, he was in favor of taking, as the basis of Confederate credit, every pound of cotton in the Confederacy. [Applause.] He himself had some to lose, but he was willing to yield it. He could say the same for his own State—gallant and patriotic Louisiana. [Cheers.] Three hundred thousand bales of cotton had been deliberately burned in the Valley of the Mississippi, rather than allow it to be seized by the enemy.

Have citizens a right to withhold their cotton from their country? [Voices—No! no!] You'll say "yes" presently. The country wants something besides cotton. It wants your *tobacco*—will you give that up? [Laughter, and cries of Yes! take it, take it!] We want more than that. We want your bacon, and everything that can feed the soldiers, and we want it as a free gift to the country. And why withhold it? What would the Yankees leave you of it all? [Voices—Nothing—none.]

Mr B said he had come there to speak plainly and frankly, and to tell them the whole truth. They must not blame him for it—must not go away and denounce him. [Cries of No, no—speak it out.] We want *men*, too, and we must let no antiquated prejudice stand in the way of reinforcing our defence with any aid we can command, be it *white* or *black*. [A voice—Put in the negroes. Great applause.]

Mr Benjamin read from a statement to show the immense levies which the United States had sent against us:

The calls for 1861 numbered	664,743
In 1862	740,000
In 1863	700,000
In 1864	1,500,000
Making a total of	3,604,743

Of these the last call for 300,000 men was, indeed, made to supply the deficiencies of previous calls. More than three millions of men had, however, been sent against a people that numbered in 1861 only 1,064,000 men of the military age. In addition to these, the enemy had 200,000 of our negroes in his service, and President Lincoln had confessed that, without these, he would have been compelled, ere this, to have yielded the struggle. [A soldier—We will make him do it yet.]

Mr. Benjamin proceeded to argue with much force the propriety of our availing ourselves of the aid of that resource which the yankees confessed had alone saved them from defeat. He knew the differences of opinion that had prevailed, and the inveteracy of the prejudices that lay in the way. He would propose a compromise by way of a test. It could at least do no harm. Suppose we open the doors to negro volunteers for our service. Suppose we invite all who wish to join, to do so, and to be free. Heretofore we have given all who are willing to pay such a price for freedom, no alternative. We have forced them to the enemy. Why not give them a choice? Why not try it? [Voices—Let's try it!] How is this to be done? By the States separately. Which will lead off? [Cries of Virginia! Virginia!]

Mr. Benjamin proceeded to speak of the joy which Virginia's secession in 1861 gave to the States which had preceded her. Such a spectacle he never saw, as when the news reached New Orleans. Old men forgot their dignity and danced with ecstacy. Old merchants, with faces seemingly harder than their ledgers, rushed out into the street and hugged and kissed each other. The people were crazy with joy. Such delight Virginia gave when she but followed—will she not now *lead*? There is not a State that would not heed the example. He was sure of his own State, Louisiana. [Cheers.] If this thing is to be done *when* should it be done? [Voices—Now! now!] Let a law be passed authorizing the President to receive such volunteers as may be offered. Let the Legislature agree to pay such owners as may require it, the value of the slaves thus volunteering. Already numerous offers of service have been made, which there is not authority to accept.

Mr Benjamin proceeded at considerable length and with great eloquence to picture the horrors of subjugation, and the disastrous social system that would then prevail. He spoke of the spirit of the army, reading, amid much applause, the resolutions lately adopted by various regiments and brigades. He exhorted to unity, to cheerfulness, and to confidence, and believed that with such an effort as we can put forth, one grand campaign will establish our success and end the war.

HEADQUARTERS RESERVE, NORTH CAROLINA,
ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Raleigh, February 13th, 1865.

GENERAL ORDER, No 8

I. ENROLLING Officers in the State of North Carolina will make diligent inquiry in their respective counties for the arms &c., called for in Gen Lee's appeal of January 25, 1865.

They are required to receive all arms brought forward under this appeal, and report them to Capt A W. Lawrence, Ordnance officer Reserve, N. C.

By command of Lt. Gen. PELHAM:

JOHN W HINSDALE,
Assistant Adj't. General

10 3t]

HEADQ'RS ARMY OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA,
January 25, 1865

To arm and equip an additional force of cavalry, there is need of carbines, revolvers, pistols, saddles, and other accoutrements of mounted men. Arms and equipments of the kind desired are believed to be held by citizens in sufficient numbers to supply our wants. Many keep them as trophies, and some with the expectation of using them in their own defence. But it should be remembered that arms are now required for use, and that they cannot be made so efficient for the defence of the country in any way, as in the hands of organized troops. They are needed to enable our cavalry to cope with the well armed and equipped cavalry of the enemy, not only in the general service, but in resisting those predatory expeditions which have inflicted so much loss upon the people of the interior.

To the patriotic I need make no other appeal than the wants of the service; but I beg to remind those who are reluctant to part with the arms and equipments in their possession, that by keeping them they diminish the ability of the army to defend their property, without themselves deriving any benefit from them. I therefore urge all persons not in the service to deliver promptly, to some of the officers designated below, such arms and equipments (especially those suitable for cavalry) as they may have, and to report to those officers the names of such persons as neglect to surrender those in their possession.

Every citizen who prevents a carbine or pistol from remaining unused, will render a service to his country. Those who think to retain arms for their own defence, should remember if the army cannot protect them, the arms will be of little use. While no valid title can be acquired to public arms and equipments except from the Government, it is reported that many persons have ignorantly purchased them from private parties. A fair compensation will, therefore, be made to all who deliver such arms and equipments to any ordnance officers, officer commanding at a post, officers and agents of the Quartermaster and Commissary Departments, at any station, or officers in the enrolling service, or reported with the Niter and Mining Bureau. All these officers are requested and those connected with this army are directed, to receive and receipt for all arms and equipments, whatever their condition and forward the same, with a duplicate receipt, to the Ordnance Department at Richmond, and report their proceedings to these Headquarters. The person holding the receipt will be compensated upon presenting it to the Ordnance Bureau. While it is hoped that no one will disregard this appeal, all officers connected with this army are required and all others are requested to take possession of any public arms and equipments they may find in the hands of persons unwilling to surrender them to the service of the country, and to give receipts therefor. A reasonable allowance for their expenses and trouble will be made to such patriotic citizens as will collect and deliver to any of the officers above designated such arms and equipments as they may find in the hands of persons not in the service, or who will report the same to those officers. A prompt compliance with this call will greatly promote the efficiency and strength of the army, particularly of the cavalry, and render it better able to protect the homes and property of the people from outrage.

R. E LEE, General.

The officers receiving arms or accoutrements under this appeal are requested to state upon the face of the duplicate receipts given by them the condition of the articles, whether in good order or otherwise; and if not in good order, the per centage which should be deducted on that account.

These receipts may be presented for payment to any one of the following named officers:

Capt. J M Stevens, Richmond Arsenal, Rich'd.
Major B Randolph, Staunton, Va.
Major E S Hutter, Granville, Va
Capt G. S Gotty, Lynchburg Va
Capt Chas Semple, Wytheville, Va.
Capt A G. Brenizer, Salisbury N C.

By order of J GORGAS,
Brig General, Chief of Ordnance

Official:
J. W HINSDALE, A. A G. 10-3t

NOTICE.

STRAYED from the subscriber, about the middle of December last, two OXEN, one black brindle, the other red neck and breast, the balance white. The said Steers I got from Jesse Bethea, in Marlboro' District, S. C. Any person who will take them up will be liberally rewarded, and any information of them will be thankfully received. The marks on them not recollected. My address is Gilopolis, Robeson county.

MARK LOCKLIER.
Jan'y 28. 6*4tpd

WANTED,

HIDES to tan on shares. Terms, ⅓ Leather or its equivalent in cash. We can tan it in a very short time if desired by Hickie's patent. Persons wishing their Hides tanned can send them to our address to Egypt Depot, where they will be taken from as Leather delivered at our expense. Our address is Beaumont, Chatham County. W D WATSON & CO.

Reference Messrs. G W Williams & Co., Fayetteville.
Jan'y 25 4*2mpd

CARD NOTICE.

ON Tuesday the 21st day of this month, the subscriber as agent for Moore county, will sell at the Court House in Carthage, a lot of COTTON and WOOL CARDS. They are for soldiers' families.

S. E. JOHNSON, Ag't.
Feb'y 6. 9*4t

LESSONS FROM OTHER DAYS.

From the Richmond Sentinel.

"They are driven to the wall—treat them as criminals craving mercy." This was the coarse counsel of a New York journal to Abraham Lincoln, as he set out to meet our Commissioners. We all know how well he acted his part, in accordance with the admonition. Who expected to find him imbued with a loftier spirit than had thus hissed its paltry venom, by way of advice?

"They are driven to the wall—treat them as criminals craving mercy." Hectoring, insolent words, worthy of their source! Worthy of the doom that awaits them, as, in all time, it has awaited, and fallen heavily on similar bravado. It was so, in effect, that the London Mercury (long since defunct) spoke to George III, a few months before he had to treat his "rebel criminals" as honored equals. It was precisely so that his Imperial Master spoke to the tyrant Gesler, in the January of 1308; and, yet, Switzerland has survived the threat to this hour: a threat far less audacious in the mighty voice of Germany under the circumstances of the Confederated Swiss, than it is in the Gascon of the day to us. It was almost exactly so, that Francis of Carrara spoke to the Genoese, to crush, forever, the "wicked republicans of Venice"—"shattered, hopeless, and at our mercy."

There is something significantly applicable to current events in this coincidence, and for that reason it is worth recounting. Our foes have utterly ignored the many noble lessons of home history, and have wilfully closed their eyes to even the most glowing pages in what were once our common records. As this hat we have here to offer, is of purely foreign extraction, it would, doubtless, affect them more than any parallels of history which are merely of native growth. Not for any possible effect on them, however, but for what it teaches ourselves, do we choose now to present one of the most suggestive answers of history to such braggart advice as cheered Lincoln on his way to City Point.

Toward the end of the year 1379, the Venetians had been reduced to such extremities that not a solitary ray of hope lightened the dense gloom then hanging over their destiny. The battle of Pola so shattered their armies and the fall of Chioza so crippled their power, that despair laid its unnerving grip on the whole Republic. The united armaments of Genoa and Padua had effected all this distress by a succession of brilliant victories in an aggressive war. On the 16th of August, 1379, Francis De Carara wrote to his capital that the gallant Venetians "were pushed to the wall and must be treated without mercy."

There were croakers in those days, as there have been ever since; and these croakers were, suddenly, so numerous throughout the Venetian Republic, as to include nearly all its civilians. Less on behalf of humanity than of their remaining interests, these caused an embassy to visit the enemy,—not to sue for peace 'on honorable terms,' but on *any terms*. A panic was on them, and, in its paroxyism, they gave their ambassadors a blank sheet of paper: let the leaders of the united armament fill it up as they please!: only allow them a shadow of the substance they were too ready to surrender—and that was all. But, that shadow required the recognition of the nominal Independence of Venice. This was a slight boon, but it could not be tolerated.

The arrogant Genoese were full flushed with victory, and panting to complete the ruin of their rival. "My foot is on their necks," wrote Peter Doria to Genoa, "they are suing for mercy in the guise of peace; but I am deaf." Nothing seemed easier than to push on and crush them. Supplicants in his camp with a "blank paper," were proof positive not only of the humiliation, but of the destruction a few days or weeks would finish forever. Therefore, he replied to the ambassadors in these words: "On God's faith, gentlemen of Venice, *you shall have no peace* until we first put a rein upon those untridled horses of yours that are on the porch of your Evangelist, St. Mark. Your *subjugation is certainty*, we shall keep you quiet, Take back the prisoners you would give me up. I shall presently come and let them and all the others out."

Do not imagine that we are here describing, slightly disguised, the speech which was heard the other day at Fortress Monroe. The words and policy of the insattiable and short-sighted tyrant, of five centuries ago, might, indeed, be confounded with their modern reproduction. But we are speaking of the veritable Peter Doria, commander of the Genoese, and not of Abraham Lincoln: of the spirit with which they said, and the manner of saying, ages ago, away in Italy: "They are driven to the wall—treat them as criminals craving mercy." These words were then precisely what they are now—insolent bravado. The Venetian Commissioners carried them back, for the consideration of their despairing comrades. They repeated to them the bold, merciless words. It was a mighty electric shock. The dark gloom was at once illumined by a flash of patriotic lightning, and there was not one Venetian craven enough to hug the torpor he was so lately eager to embrace; dismay and distrust, as if by magic, fell from their hearts, and instantly they girded themselves for the strife. They would nobly *do* or bravely *die* for Venetia and Independence.

It was well that their preparations kept pace with their rekindled ardor. The united armaments were quickly upon them to achieve the victories that were to make good their haughty and inexorable threats. Many terrible and uncertain conflicts succeeded; but there was no more dismay in the Venetian ranks or people. All was bright, deep-set, harmonious determination. It triumphed. They *would not* be conquered—and they *were not*. Within five months of his fearful threat Peter Doria paid with his life a retributive penalty for his insolence, before the walls of Chioza. In five months more the all but vanquished Venetians dictated their own terms to their prematurely exultant foes.

It was the despotic and heartless answer of the Doria which saved Venice, not only from her relentless enemies, but from what was unworthy of her, within herself. That was the spark that lit her expiring hope, and revived her whole being. Resolute in her reanimation, she stepped forth self reliant, and only drew back victorious. The peace her foes scornfully denied her, she compelled them humbly to sue for on such terms as she pleased to allow. Behold! history is re-enacting one of her sublimest spectacles this very day, on this very soil!

Gen. A. D. McLean.—Among the members of the Legislature who gained the most desirable reputation, and among those who wielded the best influence, was Gen. McLean, of Harnett. The firm and unwavering support, given by this gentleman, on all occasion, to the cause of the country; the bold and intrepid manner in which he defended her interests; and the practical, and sensible suggestions, which he always made, gave him, whenever he spoke, the attention of the house.

Raleigh Confederate.

Hon. J. L. M. Curry, formerly a member of Congress from Alabama, and the leader in that body, is now Lieut. Col. of cavalry in Roddy's brigade.

It is stated, that within the last eight months, over four hundred newspapers have come to an untimely end in consequence of the exorbitant price of paper.—*Yankee Paper.*

EMPLOYMENT OF NEGROES AS SOLDIERS

In the Whig's report of proceedings on Friday last we find the following:—

Mr. Barksdale, of Miss., introduced the following bill:

The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact, That in order to provide additional forces to repel invasion, maintain the rightful possession of the Confederate States, secure their independence, and preserve their institutions, the President be, and he is hereby, authorized to ask and accept from the owners of slaves the services of such number of able bodied negro men, as he may deem expedient, during the war, to perform military service in whatever capacity the General in Chief may direct.

Sec. 2. That the President be authorized to organize the said slaves into companies, battalions, regiments and brigades, under such rules and regulations as the Secretary of War may prescribe and to be commanded by such officers as the President may appoint.

Sec 3. That while employed in the service the said slaves shall receive the same rations, clothing and compensation as are allowed in the act approved February 17, 1864, and the acts amendatory thereto, "to increase the efficiency of the army by the employment of free negroes and slaves in certain capacities," and the compensation allowed shall be made to the owner or to the slave, as the owner may direct.

Sec 4. That nothing in this act shall be construed to authorize a change in the relation which the said slaves shall bear towards their owners, as property, except by consent of the States in which they may reside, and in pursuance of the laws thereof.

Mr Miles, of S. C., objected to the second reading of the bill; whereupon the Speaker announced the question to be, shall the bill be rejected? Mr Hartridge, of Ga., called for the yeas and nays, which being ordered, the vote stood as follows:

YEAS—Messrs Baldwin, Branch, Cruikshank, Darden, DeJarnette, Fuller, Garland, Gaulson, Gilmer, Lamkin, J. T. Leach, J. M. Leach, McMullen, Miles, Miller, Ramsay, Sexton, Smith of Ala., Smith of N. C., Wickham, Witherspoon, Mr. Speaker—29.

NAYS—Messrs. Akan, Anderson, Barksdale, Batson, Ball, Blandford, Boyce, Bradley, H W Bruce, Carroll, Chambers, Chilton, Clark, Clopton, Cluskey, Conrad, Conrow, Dickinson, Dupre, Ewing, Farrow, Foster, Funsten, Gaither, Goode, Gray, Hartridge, Hatcher, Hilton, Holden, Holliday, Johnson, Keeble, Lyon, Machen, Marshall, Menees, Moore, Orr, Perkins, Pugh, Read, Rogers, Russell, Simpson, J M Smith, W E Smith, Snead, Swan, Triplett, Villere, Welch.—58.

So the House refused to reject the bill.

Mr. Barksdale moved that the bill be referred to a select committee of one from each State. After what had been said by the Chairman of the Military Committee (Mr. Miles) it was evident that he had prejudged the question. All he (Mr. B) desired was a fair investigation of the bill, and such a report as its merits and the demands of the country absolutely required. He did not desire to enter upon its discussion now, but would say that he had introduced the bill under a solemn conviction of duty to his country. It raised no irritating issues. It provided simply that the President should accept the services of slaves, to be used as the General-in-Chief, Gen. Lee, might direct, in order to save our cause. Nor does he propose to interfere with the relation of master and slave. That question was left by the bill where it properly belongs—to the owners of slaves by the consent of the States and in pursuance of the laws thereof. Are gentlemen unwilling to let the people have the privilege of contributing their slaves as a free will offering to aid in repelling the savage foe, who is the common enemy of both races? The bill provides nothing more.

Mr Wickham, of Va., moved to postpone the matter indefinitely. He hoped if that be not the pleasure of the House, that the bill would be referred to the Military Committee. He preferred, however, that his motion should prevail, so that the question of putting slaves in the army on a footing with white men, might at once be settled. In his opinion, neither the people nor the army would submit to so monstrous a proceeding, and the day the order goes forth from the War Department, carrying into execution the provisions of the bill of the gentleman from Mississippi, sounds the death knell of the Confederacy.

Mr. J. T. Leach, (in his seat,) "That's so."

Mr. Wickham's motion was lost.

Mr. Rogers, of Fla., moved to refer the bill to the Military Committee. Lost.

The motion of Mr. Barksdale to refer it to a select committee was agreed to.

In the Examiner's report of proceeding in the Senate, on the same day, we find:—

Mr. Oldham, of Texas, introduced the following bill:

"A Bill to provide for raising 200,000 negro troops.

"Sec. 1. The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact, That the President of the Confederate States be and he is hereby authorized to receive into the military service any number of negro troops, not to exceed two hundred thousand.

"Sec. 2. That the President be and he is hereby authorized to assign officers already appointed, or make appointment of officers to raise and command said troops; and the same when raised shall be organized as provided under existing laws.

"Sec. 3. That no negro slave shall be received into the service without the written consent of his owner, and under such regulations as may be prescribed by the Secretary of War to carry into effect this act.

"Sec. 4. That it is hereby declared that Congress does not hereby assume to change the social and political status of the slave population of the States, but leaves the same under the jurisdiction and control of the States to which it belongs."

Mr Oldham made a short explanation of the bill, and requested its reference to the Military Committee.

Mr. Graham said he thought the sense of the Senate on this measure might as well be tested on the question of reference. He was opposed decidedly to the policy of the employment of negro troops under any circumstances. The Senate had already expressed its sense on the subject. He would vote against the reference.

Mr. Johnson, of Georgia, said he would vote for the reference, but did not choose to be considered as committing himself to its policy. It was a great question, and ought to go to a committee. At the same time he would say that all his present impressions were against the employment of negro troops.

The bill was referred to the Military Committee.

Occupying Confederate Cities.—At one period, during the war of the Revolution, the British occupied almost all the cities of the struggling colonies. What did Washington think of that? "I am convinced," he wrote, "that the enemy, long ere this, are perfectly satisfied that the possession of our towns, while we have an army in the field, will avail them little. It involves us in difficulties, but does not, by any means, insure conquest to them. They well know that it is our arms, not defenceless towns, which they have to subdue before they can arrive at the haven of their wishes, and that, till this is accomplished, the superstructure they have been endeavoring to raise, 'like the baseless fabric of a vision' 'falls to nothing.'"

We recommend that to the croakers, if any are left now, who imagine that the possession of one or all the Confederate towns is to decide this contest.—*Richmond Dispatch.*

Confederate Taxes.—Col. D. G. Maxwell, Tax Collector for this county, has furnished us a table showing the amount of the Confederate tax paid in Mecklenburg during the year 1864. The Specific tax was $10 580, tax on Sales $76 860 37, on Neat Cattle $7,758 35, on Property and Credits $4,658 82, on Profits above 25 per cent $25,021 09, on 10 per cent additional tax $33,409 01, on 30 per cent do $6,325 95, Advalorem 5 per cent. tax $295,635 26, on Salaries $899 95, on Incomes $202.906 92, Soldiers tax $97,639 03. Total, $761,694 75.

Charlotte Democrat.

UNITED STATES NEWS.

RICHMOND, Feb'y 13.—United States papers of the 10th inst contain very little news of any interest. The St. Albans' raiders are to be delivered up to the United States authorities. Operations against Wilmington will soon be commenced.

RICHMOND, Feb. 13.—United States papers of the 11th publish Lincoln's message relative to the Peace conference, including all the letters and telegrams on the subject. Lincoln says that after Blair returned from Richmond he left with him a letter from Davis expressing his willingness to renew the effort to enter into a conference with the view of securing peace to the two countries. Lincoln in reply, addressed a note to Blair expressing his willingness to receive any agent informally sent with a view of securing peace to the people of our common country.

The subsequent correspondence explains the detention of the Commissioners at Petersburg and City Point. In his absence Grant received their application to pass the lines, and telegraphed to Washington for instructions. Lincoln sent Maj. Reikart with a message to be delivered to the Commissioners, allowing them to pass the lines for an informal conference on the basis of Lincoln's note to Blair. In the meantime the Commissioners applied to Grant who had returned, for permission to pass the lines with a view of ascertaining upon what terms the war might be terminated, in pursuance of the course indicated by Lincoln in said letter to Blair. Grant allowed them to pass the lines and they proceeded to City Point, where they were detained until the arrival of Reikart. Before his arrival the Commissioners addressed another note to Grant, expressing a desire to go to Washington to confer informally with the President in reference to the matters mentioned in his letter to Blair. Reikart delivered his message to the commissioners and says he received an unsatisfactory reply. He notified the commissioners that they could not proceed any further until they complied with the terms expressed in his letter. At this juncture Grant telegraphed Stanton that he was convinced of the good intention of the commissioners and their sincere desire to restore peace and union; that their letters to him were all that Lincoln's instructions contemplated. Lincoln replied, requesting Grant to inform the gentlemen that he would meet them at Fortress Monroe. While Lincoln was *en route* the commissioners sent another note to Reikart expressing their willingness to proceed to Fortress Monroe to have an informal conference on the basis of Lincoln's letter to Blair, or upon any other terms he may hereafter propose, not inconsistent with the essential principles of self-government and popular rights upon which our institutions are founded. They further expressed their anxiety to establish an honorable peace without the effusion of more blood, promising their utmost efforts to accomplish such a result. Lincoln's statement of the interview is confirmatory of the report of the commissioners as to his ultimatum. He says they seemed to desire the adoption of some course that might not lead to reunion.

Mr Seward's dispatch to the U. S. Minister to England on the same subject is published. He says that the scheme which the insurgent Commissioners seemed chiefly to favor was the postponement of the question of separation, upon which the war is waged, for a season, during which the passions might be expected to subside, the armies might be reduced, and trade and intercourse between the people of both sections renewed. It was suggested by them that through such a policy we might have an immediate peace, with not an uncertain prospect of an ultimate satisfactory adjustment of the political relations between the governments and States of that section of the people now engaged in conflict with it. The suggestion, though deliberately considered, was, nevertheless, not regarded by the President as one of armistice or truce. He announced that he could agree to no suspension of hostilities except on the basis of a disbandment of the insurgent forces and the restoration of the National authority throughout the States of the Union.

Threatened Raid.—RICHMOND, Feb'y 14.—Yankee papers say that Thomas and Wilson are about to sweep through Mississippi and Alabama, as soon as the weather will permit, with a large force of cavalry and mounted infantry.

Exchange of Prisoners.—RICHMOND, Feb 14.—1050 returned Confederate prisoners are expected from Varina to-morrow. It is understood that the exchange of prisoners will now proceed regularly.

Anson County has but twenty four Justices of the Peace—seventeen of whom are between the ages of 50 and 75, and none of the remainder under 35. All of them were appointed previous to 1861. If she has any more, they must have been appointed at the present session of the Legislature, and no return of them made to the County Court Clerk's office.

At the beginning of the war the voting population of the county was about 1,000. With so large a population we doubt if another county in the State can show a better record in regard to the number of its Magistrates.—*Argus.*

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WAR NEWS.

From Kinston.—KINSTON, Feb. 12, 1865.—A scout, who came in last night, reports Foster in command at Newbern, (Palmer relieved,) and 2,000 of the 18th army corps arrived there last week, making in all, up to this time, about 5,000 troops at the post. It seems to be conceded on all sides, that the yankees have landed five locomotives, and two transports of railroad iron at Morehead City, within the last few days. However, we do not contemplate an early movement on the part of the enemy in this direction.

Ral. Confederate.

Siege of Charleston.—Five Hundred and Eightieth Day.—About eight o'clock Friday morning a force supposed to be between three and four thousand strong, under cover of their gunboats, effected a landing at Grimball's, James island. Our pickets, after a brisk fight, fell back to the first line of works. No apprehensions are entertained of this movement, which is believed to be nothing but a feint.

Another force made an attack on our lines at Salkehatchie, on Friday morning, but were easily repulsed. At the same time a body of the enemy advanced upon the Charleston road near Blue House, and opened with their artillery, but made no impression on our lines.

The enemy appear to have withdrawn most of their forces from Combahee ferry. Everything in that vicinity is reported quiet. The enemy reopened fire on the city yesterday, throwing eight shells.—*Charleston Courier, 11th.*

Sherman's Movements.—The main body of the enemy's infantry crossed Ediisto river at Bennaker's bridge on Thursday. Intelligence from the road on Friday evening reports them moving towards Augusta. No demonstration as yet had taken place on the Columbia branch of the South Carolina Railroad. It is reported, however, that the yankees have been very busy destroying the track between Augusta and Branchville.

Charleston Courier, 11th.

Address from General Lee.—RICHMOND, Feb 13.—Gen. Lee has issued a General Order, offering pardon to all deserters and men improperly absent, who return to their commands within 20 days from its publication at the headquarters of the department in which they may be. No General amnesty will again be granted, and those who refuse to accept the pardon now offered, or shall hereafter desert, shall suffer such punishment as a court martial may impose, and no application for clemency will be entertained. The order closes as follows:

"Taking new resolution from the fate which our enemies intend for us, let every man devote all his energies to the common defence. Our resources, vigorously employed, are ample; and with the army sustained by a determined and united people, success, with God's assistance, cannot be doubtful. The advantages of the enemy will have but little value if we do not permit them to impair our resolution. Let us then oppose constancy to adversity; fortitude to suffering; courage to danger; with a firm assurance that He who gave freedom to our Fathers will bless the efforts of their children to preserve it."

South Carolina Localities.—The Edisto river rises in the southwestern portion of South Carolina, and flowing southwestwardly, empties into the Atlantic forty miles southwest of Charleston. Branchville is on the Augusta branch of the South Carolina railroad, a mile east of the point at which the railroad crosses the Edisto. This river is now the line held by General Hardee in the neighborhood of Branchville. Nearer the coast we hold the line of the Combahee river, in the vicinity of the Charleston and Savannah railroad.

From the most recent authentic intelligence it appears that while a part of Sherman's army is making active demonstrations against Combahee ferry, near the Charleston and Savannah railroad, as if with the design of marching on Charleston, the rest of his forces have appeared at four points on the Edisto, viz: at New Bridge, five miles below Branchville, at Bennaker's and Holman's bridges, above, and at the railroad bridge opposite, that place. Our troops that held the bridge over the Salkehatchie, west of Branchville, were driven in on last Wednesday. If he succeeded in forcing a passage of the Edisto, above and below Branchville, he will tap the railroad running thence to Columbia, and also the railroad to Charleston, and compel our troops to fall back from Branchville. But they will most probably evacuate it, if at any time it shall appear that Sherman cannot be prevented from crossing the river.

Richmond Dispatch, 11th.

Despondency and Laxity among the Yankees.—The New York Times, in an article headed "New Energy Demanded," thus refers to a "false security that threatens the loyal cause." It says:

Gen. Sherman's recent successes and the peace conference which so soon followed, have produced a general impression that, at worst, but little more fighting remains to be done. No requisition for more soldiers ever yet issued has been responded to so dilatorily as that now pending. Everywhere, in city and country, there is a general flagging of effort in every operation for reinforcing our armies in the field. Nobody can deny the fact.

The New York correspondent of the Philadelphia Inquirer also speaks of the "bitter disappointment" with which the news of the failure of the "peace movement" was received in New York. He says:

With but one or two exceptions, I think the New York press have all along been encouraging the belief that "peace" was certainly at hand; and so, when the "bubble" collapsed to-day, a feeling of bitter disappointment was visible on almost every face. Anxious faces surrounded the newspaper bulletins; Wall street was on the rampage, "confidence" went down, and gold went up.

The steamers which sailed for Europe this afternoon will take out the news, and it will probably create as much excitement in London and Paris as it does here. The secesh correspondents of the London Times, Herald and Standard, no doubt will represent that Mr. Lincoln was trying to make peace, and not Jeff. Davis, and in this way a foreign sentiment favorable to the Rebels will be created. The North, it will be said, is sick of the war, and held out the olive branch, but the Rebels rejected it, confident of their ability to continue the struggle to the bitter end, in other words, till independence is won.

Captured.—We regret to learn that Mrs. Col. W. J. Clarke has just received intelligence of the capture of Col Clarke. He was at Diswiddie Court House, on his way to Richmond, to report for orders, and intending to pass by his Regiment, (24th N. C.) While he was at Dinwiddie, a party of Gregg's yankee cavalry came suddenly upon the place, and Col. Clarke, with others, was made prisoners.—*Ral. Confederate.*

The New Command of Gen Lee.—General Orders (Number 3,) have been issued from the Adjutant General's office relative to the new command of General Lee. The following is an extract:—

"II. General Robert E. Lee, having been duly appointed General-in-Chief of the army of the Confederate States, will assume the duties thereof, and will be obeyed and respected accordingly."